

Search

From: Moore, Jim
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:17 PM
To: Gannon, Mary; 'Drew Bracken'
Cc: Forgrave, Megan; Stalker, Veronica
Subject: RE: Staci Hupp

Just picked up this email and some phone messages of which one was from Hupp. I will return her call tomorrow even though she wanted a call by 5:30 today....Jim

From: Gannon, Mary
Sent: Tue 6/1/2010 10:03 AM
To: Moore, Jim; Drew Bracken
Cc: Forgrave, Megan; Stalker, Veronica
Subject: Staci Hupp

I forwarded our e-mail on the Glenwood case to Staci Hupp, DMR, and she followed up this a.m. She's planning on talking to Jim and Drew for more background as well. Drew, if you need our consent to talk to her, you have it. I trust you won't reveal won't you don't think you should reveal and will protect privilege, if even needed. Not sure we have any protected strategy here! I also asked her, Drew, to ask you about our case with the DE/ISEA that is pending. Again, privilege waived, if needed. Any questions, holler. Thanks!

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 9:53 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Cc: 'Washburn, Carolyn'; 'Brubaker, Randy'; Stalker, Veronica
Subject: RE: IASB - Requested Documents

Clark, if you need this before next week, please call Nolden Gentry on your first two questions. I do not have that information and am out of the office Friday and Monday, and won't have access to email.

On the third question, Brooks-Lodden has now told us they expect to complete their work on the regular 2009 audit by the end of the month, but they then plan to present it to the audit committee and the board so that they can fully understand it before they release it to the public. The next board meeting is scheduled for June 18, so my understanding is that we'll release it after that. That is the only audit - I assume you are also referring to LWB Financial's work - please note that they were not hired to do a full forensic audit, but their work did include some specific forensic auditing procedures - I would expect their report at the same time.

Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:11 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: IASB - Requested Documents

Megan,

Can you tell me what IASB anticipates Veronica will actually receive - in terms of dollars - by way of a retirement benefit after November 1? (I realize you may only be able to provide an estimate.)

Also, what does the "final payment" of Jan. 15, 2011, (\$5,356) represent?

And finally, what is the status of the two IASB audits?

Thanks.

Clark

On 5/19/10 4:41 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Clark-

Although IASB does not currently fall under the open records law, we are providing the documents that you have requested, and they are attached.

Veronica Stalker's contract should be straightforward, and reflects information I have already shared with you. In the second document, I have compiled for you both background and figures on the playground compliance program.

It is critical that you understand that the partnership IASB has with the playground compliance group, as well as other vendors, is entirely legal and legitimate, and that it is no different from partnerships or sponsorships that hospitals or other membership organizations have with other entities. We believe that all of IASB's programs and partnerships provide valuable services to schools, and we would ask that you keep in mind the damage that is done when the media repeats unfounded accusations of "kickbacks," which have a negative connotation of illegal activity, of which we have no evidence. If you do decide to report any more on this program or others, we ask that you do due diligence, and would encourage you to speak with schools that have used such programs - I would be glad to provide you with contacts.

Thank you.

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To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: IASB - Requested Documents

Finally, there are not two audits. Brooks Lodden expects to finish the regular 2009 audit by the end of the month - they will then need to present it to the audit committee and the IASB Board before they release it more broadly. I would expect we can release it after the June 18 board meeting. LWBJ's work included some forensic auditing procedures, but they are not doing a full forensic audit of the entire organization. They are putting together a report for the board.

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To: Forgrave, Megan
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From: Gannon, Mary
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 8:10 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: RE: Email to DM Register

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good letter!

-----Original Message-----

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 3:57 PM
To: 'Nolden Gentry'; Laura Luetje; tim@playgroundcompliance.com; Stalker, Veronica; Heiligenthal, Harry; Kathy Zehr; Gannon, Mary
Subject: Email to DM Register

All-

I just sent this to Clark Kauffman at the Des Moines Register, as well as his editors. Thanks to those of you who helped us gather information to address his issues. FYI, we are taking a look at how much time we should be spending doing his research, when he doesn't have specific questions and rarely includes the context we provide. Still, I do think it's important to try and make our case.... Thanks.

Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 3:52 PM
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Cc: Washburn, Carolyn; Brubaker, Randy
Subject: RE: IASB - Requested Documents

Clark-

Per your last email, your own perspective that you shared, I have gathered some pieces of information below.

First of all, I pulled contact information for both a large and small school that have utilized the playgrounds program, if it is helpful for you to talk to school officials with some firsthand experience:

Sioux City: Ray Rowe, facilities and grounds supervisor. Work: (712) 279-6652

Pekin: Jeff Eeling, principal. Work: (319) 695-3707

If you would like to speak with Tim Mahoney, president of the National Playground Compliance Group, he can be reached at (847) 458-3958.

Secondly, you referenced the Iowa Educators Consortium. We are in no way similar to that organization, primarily because they are subject to different rules as a 28E. IASB, on the other hand, is organized as a private, nonprofit corporation. Please see the points below:

The case that you reference in the below email stating that, "[T]he legality of that arrangement at IEC has been questioned by the USDA and by the vendor's competitors, who are suing to halt the practice because they believe the payments to the nonprofit amount to kickbacks and that the arrangement stifles competitive pricing" is not a legal issue that is a similar situation to IASB. Further, the Appellate court in that case sent it back to the District court level for a trial. They did not provide a Ruling beyond sending it back to the lower level. This is not a legal decision of what the court has or has not decided as to the practice that of the IEC. Secondly, IEC is a 28e and 28e's are governed by a different section of the code than IASB is. IASB is a nonprofit organization with members and we are not subject to the 28e provision of the Code. The case you are referencing is Hawkeye Foodservice Distribution, Inc. v Iowa Educators Corporation which alleges that AEAs and IEC violated chapter 23A, which prohibits a school corporation from engaging in "manufacturing, processing, sale, offering for sale, rental, leasing, delivery, dispensing, distributing, or advertising of goods or services to the public which are also offered by private enterprise...." Iowa Code chapter 23A applies to non competition by government and state agencies (IEC's), and both of which IASB is not. IASB is a nonprofit and is governed by Iowa Code chapter 504, the Revised Iowa Nonprofit Corporation Act. The laws of Chapter 504 do not apply to the 28e organizations in the case that you have referenced and vice versa.

Finally, I have gathered a few other examples of groups that use similar business models as what you are referencing with this IASB partnership program. The University of Iowa alumni organization, for example, which is also a nonprofit, receives a percentage every time someone uses one of the credit cards that they partner with Bank of America to provide. Details are here: <http://www.iowalum.com/iowarewards/FAQ.html>

A non-profit that does AIDS prevention work in Africa has various business partners providing different services that, in return for being showcased on their web site, give back a percentage of sales to the organization. <http://www.joinred.com/takeaction/shop> This sort of arrangement is a standard business model.

We are willing to provide information, but so that I don't spend our staff's time to research general comments you make, please let me know if you have additional, specific questions, and we'll set up an interview. Thanks.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckuffman@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 5:16 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan; Kauffman, Clark
Cc: Washburn, Carolyn; Brubaker, Randy
Subject: Re: IASB - Requested Documents

Megan,

Thanks for the information. If you have contact information you'd like to provide, feel free to send it.

As for the term "kickbacks," the reality is that these payments, characterized by IASB as "royalties," are viewed by others as "kickbacks" in the sense that they are payments made to IASB by Welch that are tied to the purchases made with Welch by IASB's own members.

Is this arrangement similar to those used by other private associations and organizations? Yes it is, absolutely. For example, the nonprofit Iowa Educators Consortium collects money from a private, for-profit vendor who sells food to consortium-member school districts under an exclusive contract.

But here's the thing: The legality of that arrangement at IEC has been questioned by the USDA and by the vendor's competitors, who are suing to halt the practice because they believe the payments to the nonprofit amount to kickbacks and that the arrangement stifles competitive pricing.

Predictably, IASB has had similar questions raised with regard to its playground resurfacing program. I can't pretend that those questions don't exist or that they are all based on some sort of misunderstanding of how the program works. But if you have specific program information that shows why these payments should be considered royalties and not kickbacks, let me know and I will include that specific information in the story. Right now, it appears to me that there's no dispute over how the program works ... The only question appears to be whether it should work that way.

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Thank you.

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 4:12 PM
To: 'tim@playgroundcompliance.com'
Subject: RE: Email to DM Register

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My bad - just corrected it. Sorry about that!

-----Original Message-----

From: tim@playgroundcompliance.com [mailto:tim@playgroundcompliance.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 4:06 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Email to DM Register

My number is 847 917 3958

Tim
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

-----Original Message-----

From: "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org>
Date: Tue, 25 May 2010 15:57:17
To: Nolden Gentry<nolden.gentry@brickgentrylaw.com>; Laura Luetje<Laura.Luetje@brickgentrylaw.com>;
<tim@playgroundcompliance.com>; Stalker, Veronica<vstalker@IA-SB.org>; Heiligenthal, Harry<hheiligenthal@ia-sb.org>; Kathy Zehr<kzehr@lwbj.com>; Gannon, Mary<mgannon@ia-sb.org>
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To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Cc: 'Washburn, Carolyn'; 'Brubaker, Randy'
Subject: Phone number

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Clark-

I'm sorry, but I gave you Tim's fax number. Tim Mahoney's phone number is 847 917 3958.

Thanks.

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To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Email to DM Register

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Date: Tue, 25 May 2010 15:57:17
To: Nolden Gentry<nolden.gentry@brickgentrylaw.com>; Laura Luetje<Laura.Luetje@brickgentrylaw.com>; <tim@playgroundcompliance.com>; Stalker, Veronica<vstalker@IA-SB.org>; Heiligenthal, Harry<hheiligenthal@ia-sb.org>; Kathy Zehr<kzehr@lwbj.com>; Gannon, Mary<mgannon@ia-sb.org>
Subject: Email to DM Register

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Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 5:16 PM

To: Forgrave, Megan; Kauffman, Clark

Cc: Washburn, Carolyn; Brubaker, Randy

Subject: Re: IASB - Requested Documents

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The case that you reference in the below email stating that, "[T]he legality of that arrangement at IEC has been questioned by the USDA and by the vendor's competitors, who are suing to halt the practice because they believe the payments to the nonprofit amount to kickbacks and that the arrangement stifles competitive pricing" is not a legal issue that is a similar situation to IASB. Further, the Appellate court in that case sent it back to the District court level for a trial. They did not provide a Ruling beyond sending it back to the lower level. This is not a legal decision of what the court has or has not decided as to the practice that of the IEC. Secondly, IEC is a 28e and 28e's are governed by a different section of the code than IASB is. IASB is a nonprofit organization with members and we are not subject to the 28e provision of the Code. The case you are referencing is Hawkeye Foodservice Distribution, Inc. v Iowa Educators Corporation which alleges that AEAs and IEC violated chapter 23A, which prohibits a school corporation from engaging in "manufacturing, processing, sale, offering for sale, rental, leasing, delivery, dispensing, distributing, or advertising of goods or services to the public which are also offered by private enterprise...." Iowa Code chapter 23A applies to non competition by government and state agencies (IEC's), and both of which IASB is not. IASB is a nonprofit and is governed by Iowa Code chapter 504, the Revised Iowa Nonprofit Corporation Act. The laws of Chapter 504 do not apply to the 28e organizations in the case that you have referenced and vice versa.

Finally, I have gathered a few other examples of groups that use similar business models as what you are referencing with this IASB partnership program. The University of Iowa alumni organization, for example, which is also a nonprofit, receives a percentage every time someone uses one of the credit cards that they partner with Bank of America to provide. Details are here: <http://www.iowalum.com/iowarewards/FAQ.html>

A non-profit that does AIDS prevention work in Africa has various business partners providing different services that, in return for being showcased on their web site, give back a percentage of sales to the organization. <http://www.joinred.com/takeaction/shop> This sort of arrangement is a standard business model.

We are willing to provide information, but so that I don't spend our staff's time to research general comments you make, please let me know if you have additional, specific questions, and we'll set up an interview. Thanks.

Megan (Hawkins) Forgrave
Communications Director
Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312-1417
(515) 288-1991, ext. 236
1-800-795-4272
Direct Line: (515) 247-7036
Cell: (515) 229-1705
Fax: (515) 247-4680
www.ia-sb.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckkauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 5:16 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan; Kauffman, Clark
Cc: Washburn, Carolyn; Brubaker, Randy
Subject: Re: IASB - Requested Documents

Megan,

Thanks for the information. If you have contact information you'd like to provide, feel free to send it.

As for the term "kickbacks," the reality is that these payments, characterized by IASB as "royalties," are viewed by others as "kickbacks" in the sense that they are payments made to IASB by Welch that are tied to the purchases made with Welch by IASB's own members.

Is this arrangement similar to those used by other private associations and organizations? Yes it is, absolutely. For example, the nonprofit Iowa Educators Consortium collects money from a private, for-profit vendor who sells food to consortium-member school districts under an exclusive contract.

But here's the thing: The legality of that arrangement at IEC has been questioned by the USDA and by the vendor's competitors, who are suing to halt the practice because they believe the payments to the nonprofit amount to kickbacks and that the arrangement stifles competitive pricing.

Predictably, IASB has had similar questions raised with regard to its playground resurfacing program. I can't pretend that those questions don't exist or that they are all based on some sort of misunderstanding of how the program works. But if you have specific program information that shows why these payments should be considered royalties and not kickbacks, let me know and I will include that specific information in the story. Right now, it appears to me that there's no dispute over how the program works ... The only question appears to be whether it should work that way.

Clark

On 5/19/10 4:41 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Clark-

Although IASB does not currently fall under the open records law, we are providing the documents that you have requested, and they are attached.

Veronica Stalker's contract should be straightforward, and reflects information I have already shared with you. In the second document, I have compiled for you both background and figures on the playground compliance program.

It is critical that you understand that the partnership IASB has with the playground compliance group, as well as other vendors, is entirely legal and legitimate, and that it is no different from partnerships or sponsorships that hospitals or other membership organizations have with other entities. We believe that all of IASB's programs and partnerships provide valuable services to schools, and we would ask that you keep in mind the damage that is done when the media repeats unfounded accusations of "kickbacks," which have a negative connotation of illegal activity, of which we have no evidence. If you do decide to report any more on this program or others, we ask that you do due diligence, and would encourage you to speak with schools that have used such programs - I would be glad to provide you with contacts.

Thank you.

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I'm leaning toward heading to Colorado anyway.

BTW you can see how Katie did in her track meet here:

http://data.desmoinesregister.com/sports_data/state_track_complete_results.php

If it's not raining, I'll head for a jog after work. Want me to be the one to go grocery shopping, since you're doing yoga? I could bike there after work...if it's not raining!

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Anyway, I haven't taken any days yet in 2010, so here are the 18 days I'm looking for:

- April 8-9 (2 days)
- May 28 (1 day)
- June 10, 11 and 14 (3 days)
- July 19-23 (5 days)
- Sept. 3 (1 day)
- Nov. 24 and 26 (2 days)
- Dec. 27-30, assuming Dec. 31 is a holiday since New Year's is on a Saturday (4 days)

Total = 18 days

Let me know if there are any problems there.

Reid

*Carol Hunter
Politics/state editor
The Des Moines Register
(515) 284-8545
chunter@dmreg.com
www.DesMoinesRegister.com/politics*

Search

From: Walsh, Sharon <swalsh@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 11:10 AM
To: Blair, Darlene
Subject: RE: ISJIT Minutes and Bills for Publication

Darlene – I can get these in on Friday.

Thanks!!!

Sharon Walsh

Legals Clerk
Des Moines Register
email: legals@dmreg.com
Phone: (515) 284-8715
Fax: (515) 284-8146

From: Blair, Darlene [<mailto:dblair@ia-sb.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 11:06 AM
To: Walsh, Sharon
Subject: ISJIT Minutes and Bills for Publication

Des Moines Register

For Publication: Attached are the minutes and accounts paid from the May 13, 2010 ISJIT Board Meeting.

Thanks.

Darlene Blair

Executive Assistant

Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312-1417
Phone: 515-247-7042
Fax: 515-247-7041
Email: dblair@ia-sb.org
www.ia-sb.org

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www.ia-sb.org

Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 3:45 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: Information

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Clark-

I am out of the office ill today with some kind of flu bug. Can I send you information on the playgrounds program Monday, or are you writing for this weekend? Thx.

Megan (Hawkins) Forgrave
Communications Director
Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312-1417
(515) 288-1991, ext. 236
1-800-795-4272
Direct Line: (515) 247-7036
Cell: (515) 229-1705
Fax: (515) 247-4680
www.ia-sb.org

Search

From: Laura Luetje <Laura.Luetje@BrickGentryLaw.com>
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 3:34 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: Nolden Gentry; Adriel Lage
Subject: Clark Kauffman response
Attachments: image001.gif; image001.gif; image001.gif

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

A 114

Megan,

[REDACTED]

On May 21, 2010, at 1:32 PM, Forgrave, Megan wrote:

Actually, I'm home ill today with some kind of flu bug and just got onto email. I'm debating emailing Clark to see if we can respond Monday or if he's planning a weekend story. That okay?

-----Original Message-----

From: Laura Luetje [mailto:Laura.Luetje@brickgentrylaw.com]

Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 12:02 PM

To: Forgrave, Megan

Subject: Re: Clark Kauffman response

Importance: High

Megan

~~Not to be used for anything and to~~

Laura

On May 20, 2010, at 9:15 AM, Forgrave, Megan wrote:

~~-----Original Message-----~~

~~From: Forgrave, Megan [mailto:mforgrave@forgrave.com]~~

~~Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 9:15 AM~~

~~To: Laura Luetje [mailto:Laura.Luetje@brickgentrylaw.com]~~

~~Subject: Re: Clark Kauffman response~~

Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 5:16 PM

To: Forgrave, Megan; Kauffman, Clark

Cc: Washburn, Carolyn; Brubaker, Randy

Subject: Re: IASB - Requested Documents

Megan,

Thanks for the information. If you have contact information you'd like

to provide, feel free to send it.

As for the term "kickbacks," the reality is that these payments, characterized by IASB as "royalties," are viewed by others as "kickbacks" in the sense that they are payments made to IASB by Welch that are tied to the purchases made with Welch by IASB's own members.

Is this arrangement similar to those used by other private associations and organizations? Yes it is, absolutely. For example, the nonprofit Iowa Educators Consortium collects money from a private,

for-profit vendor who sells food to consortium-member school districts

under an exclusive contract.

But here's the thing: The legality of that arrangement at IEC has been

questioned by the USDA and by the vendor's competitors, who are suing to halt the practice because they believe the payments to the nonprofit amount to kickbacks and that the arrangement stifles competitive pricing.

Predictably, IASB has had similar questions raised with regard to its playground resurfacing program. I can't pretend that those questions don't exist or that they are all based on some sort of misunderstanding of how the program works. But if you have specific program information that shows why these payments should be considered

royalties and not kickbacks, let me know and I will include that specific information in the story. Right now, it appears to me that there's no dispute over how the program works ... The only question appears to be whether it should work that way.

Clark

On 5/19/10 4:41 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Clark-

Although IASB does not currently fall under the open records law, we are providing the documents that you have requested, and they are attached.

Veronica Stalker's contract should be straightforward, and reflects information I have already shared with you. In the second document, I have compiled for you both background and figures on the playground compliance program.

It is critical that you understand that the partnership IASB has with the playground compliance group, as well as other vendors, is entirely

legal and legitimate, and that it is no different from partnerships or

sponsorships that hospitals or other membership organizations have with other entities. We believe that all of IASB's programs and partnerships provide valuable services to schools, and we would ask that you keep in mind the damage that is done when the media repeats unfounded accusations of "kickbacks," which have a negative connotation of illegal activity, of which we have no evidence. If you do decide to report any more on this program or others, we ask that you do due diligence, and would encourage you to speak with schools that have used such programs - I would be glad to provide you with contacts.

Thank you.

Megan (Hawkins) Forgrave
Communications Director
Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue

Des Moines, Iowa 50312-1417

(515) 288-1991, ext. 236

1-800-795-4272

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www.ia-sb.org <<http://www.ia-sb.org>><<http://www.ia-sb.org>>

Laura R. Luetje
Attorney at Law

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Attorney at Law



BRICK GENTRY P.C.

Brick Gentry P.C.

6701 Westown Parkway, Ste. 100

West Des Moines, IA 50266

Phone: 515-274-1450

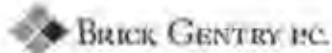
Fax: 515-274-1488

Laura.Luetje@BrickGentryLaw.com

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Laura R. Luetje
Attorney at Law



Brick Gentry P.C.
6701 Westown Parkway, Ste. 100
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Phone: 515-274-1450
Fax: 515-274-1488
Laura.Luetje@BrickGentryLaw.com

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Search

From: Blair, Darlene
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 1:52 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: RE: Megan today

Harry wants to know if you want to talk sometime today or this weekend. Also does Diane have the contact info pulled on the board presidents by director district.

*Thanks.
Darlene*

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 1:39 PM
To: Heiligenthal, Harry
Cc: Blair, Darlene
Subject: Megan today

Harry-

I am not feeling any better - must have some kind of flu bug thing - so not planning to be in today. I will work on a draft of the talking points for board to call for district meetings and send to you in a while. Will also try to finish survey. And will see if Clark is planning a weekend story or if we can give him stuff Monday. Then going back to bed. ;)

Darlene - if Harry is running around today, can you please flag him on this note? We were supposed to work on the things above. Thanks.

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Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 1:32 PM
To: 'Laura Luetje'; 'Nolden Gentry'
Subject: RE: Clark Kauffman response

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

From: Laura Luetje [mailto:Laura.Luetje@brickgentrylaw.com]
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 12:02 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Clark Kauffman response
Importance: High

Megan

Laura

On May 20, 2010, at 9:15 AM, Forgrave, Megan wrote:

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> Megan

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>

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> **Sent:** Wednesday, May 19, 2010 5:16 PM

> **To:** Forgrave, Megan; Kauffman, Clark

> **Cc:** Washburn, Carolyn; Brubaker, Randy

> **Subject:** Re: IASB - Requested Documents

>

> Megan,

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> to provide, feel free to send it.

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> characterized by IASB as "royalties," are viewed by others as
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> that are tied to the purchases made with Welch by IASB's own members.

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> associations and organizations? Yes it is, absolutely. For example,
> the nonprofit Iowa Educators Consortium collects money from a private,
> for-profit vendor who sells food to consortium-member school districts
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> questioned by the USDA and by the vendor's competitors, who are suing
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>

> Clark

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>
>

Laura R. Luetje
Attorney at Law

Search

From: info@preknow.org on behalf of Pre-K Now <info@preknow.org>
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 12:08 PM
To: Gvist, Lou Ann
Subject: Newsclips - May 21, 2010

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



May 21, 2010

Pre-K Newsclips



The Chattanooga (TN)
**Commitment of state to pre-k lauded in new
Pew Center report**

Staff
5-20-10

Gov. Phil Bredesen and the state of Tennessee earned national commendation in a report released on Thursday for the state's consistent and firm commitment to high-quality pre-k. The state-by-state analysis "Leadership Matters" ... was released by Pre-K Now, a project of the Pew Center on the States.
[Click here for full article](#)

Quote of the Day

"Pre-k classrooms are one of the best investments we can make in the lives of our young people."



Tennessee Gov. **Phil
Bredesen**

CBS News, WFMY-TV (NC)
**North Carolina ranks among nation's top two
states for pre-k education**

Tracey McCain
5-20-10

For the second year in a row, North Carolina ranks among the nation's top two states for preschool education. ... State education leaders say the ranking is proof students as young as three are getting a jump start in the classroom.
[Click here for full article](#)

On the Inside Pre-K blog

The Magic of Leadership

The idea that how a leader goes, so goes the state, is the cornerstone of Pre-K Now's yearly report, "Leadership Matters."
[read more >>](#)



CBS News, WJZ-TV (MD)
**Baltimore students improve national reading
scores**

Gigi Barnett
5-20-10

It's been a long-awaited improvement. Baltimore City students are now reading as well as their peers across the country. ... Part of the improvement stems from the fact that Baltimore has more and better pre-k programs.
[Click here for full article](#)

Thrive by Five Washington (WA)
What bad economy? U.S. governors propose holding pre-k spending steady

Blog: Birth to Thrive
Paul Nyhan
5-20-10

The U.S. economy still may be weak, but the nation's governors want to preserve funding for pre-kindergarten next year, proposing roughly the same spending as this year, \$5.3 billion, Pre-K Now reports today.
[Click here for full article](#)

Auburn Reporter (WA)
State takes big steps toward lasting early education reforms

Opinion
Sen. Claudia Kauffman and Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe
5-20-10

There are skeptics who believe expanding early learning will be too costly. But as the gap widens between the haves and have-nots, doing nothing will cost us much more down the road. Now is the time to raise the bar on early learning. Children in this state deserve nothing less, and their future is in our hands.
[Click here for full article](#)

ABC News, KOAT-TV (NM)
NM educ. secretary speaks about reading scores

Staff
5-20-10

While a new report states that poverty is a leading factor of low reading skills in New Mexico fourth-graders, parents say it's a combination of poor schools and bad parenting. ... "We do have to mitigate its impact and assure that children in poverty have access to quality pre-k," said [New Mexico Public Education Secretary Veronica Garcia].
[Click here for full article](#)

The Ogemaw County Herald (MI)
Speaker emphasizes importance of early childhood education

Jeff Patrus
5-20-10

[Bill Millett, founder of Scope View Strategic Advantage,] said early childhood education is critical to the nation's future economic success because 80 percent of a child's basic brain development takes place during the first four years of a child's

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life. "The basic architecture is set early on," Millett said.
[Click here for full article](#)

The Journal Gazette (IN)
Pre-k politics
Blog: Learning Curve
Karen Francisco
5-17-10

I didn't explore the reasons for Indiana's poor record in the article [published Sunday], but there are several. One is that the early childhood community hasn't done an effective job of putting forth a unified voice for quality child care and preschool.
[Click here for full article](#)

[back to top](#)

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Pre-K Now
1001 E Street, NW
10th Floor
Washington, DC 20004
www.preknow.org

Pre-K Now, a campaign of the Pew Center on the States, collaborates with advocates and policymakers to lead a movement toward high-quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten for all three and four year olds.



Search

From: Laura Luetje <Laura.Luetje@brickgentrylaw.com>
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 12:02 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Clark Kauffman response
Attachments: image001.gif; ATT750899.txt; image001.gif; ATT13676233.txt; image001.gif; ATT15049060.txt

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Megan



Laura

On May 20, 2010, at 9:15 AM, Forgrave, Megan wrote:

>
> If anyone else is able to weigh in, please see Clark Kauffman's
> message below. Is there anything else we can provide that would
> explain this process and the legality of it? It looks to me like this
> would open the door to them looking at all of our programs this way. Thanks..

>
> Megan

>
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> —Original Message—

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Laura R. Luetje
Attorney at Law

Search

From: CPA Letter Daily <cpa@smartbrief.com>
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 8:54 AM
To: Lagerblade, Randy
Subject: May 21, 2010 - Senate approves sweeping overhaul of financial regulation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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MAY 21, 2010

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Senate approves sweeping overhaul of financial regulation

The Senate approved legislation to overhaul financial regulation with a 59-39 vote. The bill would establish a consumer-protection agency within the Federal Reserve, prohibit banks from proprietary trading, boost the government's ability to wind down a failing institution, bolster oversight of derivatives trading and establish a council of systemic-risk regulators. Republicans scrutinized the bill, citing concern about its failure to address Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and about the consumer bureau. [The Washington Post \(5/21\)](#), [Bloomberg \(5/21\)](#), [The Wall Street Journal \(5/20\)](#), [Nasdaq.com/Dow Jones Newswires \(5/20\)](#), [The New York Times \(free](#)

[registration\) \(5/20\)](#)

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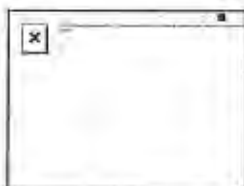
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Financial Focus

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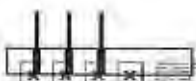
Fed official says Europe's debt woes could hit U.S. economy



Source: CNBC

Federal Reserve Governor Daniel Tarullo told a House panel that Europe's debt crisis could emerge as a "significant external shock" to the domestic economy. Tarullo said the central bank's move to reinstate its dollar liquidity-swap lines with other central banks was key to minimizing risk created by Greece's fiscal problems. "In the worst case, such turmoil could lead to a replay of the freezing up of financial markets that we witnessed in 2008," he

said. [CNBC \(5/21\)](#) , [The New York Times \(free registration\) \(5/20\)](#) 




Democrats decide to press ahead with \$190B bill on jobs, taxes

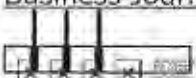
Congressional Democrats plan to push next week for adoption of a \$190 billion package that would cut some business taxes and increase others, extend unemployment benefits, and impose fees on oil companies. They hope to get the measure approved before Memorial Day. Critics said the bill effectively would double taxes paid by private-equity and venture capital partnerships. [The Politico \(Washington\) \(5/21\)](#) , [The Hill/On The Money blog \(5/20\)](#) ,

[Google/The Associated Press \(5/21\)](#) 

Despite recession, study finds record number of business startups


A study of entrepreneurship found that the creation of businesses hit an all-time high in the U.S. last year. The Kauffman Foundation, a nonprofit, found that Americans launched about 558,000 businesses a month in 2009, the fastest pace since the foundation started compiling such data 14 years ago. [U.S. News & World Report/Rick Newman blog \(5/20\)](#) , [American City](#)

[Business Journals/Phoenix \(5/20\)](#) , [St. Louis Post-Dispatch/Mound City Money blog \(5/20\)](#) 



Gensler says algorithmic trading contributed to May 6 plunge

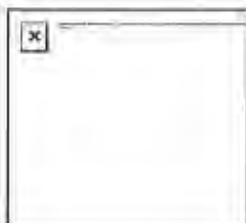
Gary Gensler, chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, discussed the May 6 "flash crash," saying algorithmic trading likely contributed to the market plunge. "Usually, high volume indicates high liquidity," Gensler said. "On this day, however, high volume could have been a misleading indicator of liquidity to market participants and their preprogrammed

algorithms." [The Wall Street Journal \(5/21\)](#) 

Other News

Nearly 10% of U.S. banks are in trouble, FDIC says

[Los Angeles Times \(5/21\)](#) 








Live Infocast: Financial System Considerations in IFRS Conversion Projects

— This May 26, 2010 infocast will discuss factors to consider before implementing IFRS or during project planning. Covers impact to financial/business reporting, differences between IFRS and GAAP and more. IT Section Members/CITP Credential Holders Save \$15. > [Register Now](#)

Reasonable cause, good faith: Defenses to accuracy-related penalty




Taxpayers can avoid the §6662 accuracy-related penalty if they had reasonable cause for their tax underpayment and they acted in good faith. This article explores how those standards work and how they have been applied by the Internal Revenue Service and courts. [The Tax Adviser](#)

(5/2010)     

Market Update

European fears push U.S. stock indexes down





The Dow, Nasdaq and S&P 500 all dropped more than 10% from rally highs on Thursday, moving the major indexes into "correction territory." A slump in the euro and mounting concerns over the European debt crisis fueled the sell-off. The Dow dropped even more than in

May 6's "flash crash," falling 376 points in Thursday's session. [CNNMoney.com](#) (5/20)   


International View


Germany's Merkel wants G-20 to step up regulatory reform

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she plans to encourage her counterparts in the Group of 20 to coordinate and accelerate efforts to overhaul financial regulation. "I am very concerned that we will be able to agree on a similarly coordinated -- as we did stimulus measures -- international agreement on exit strategies," Merkel said. She also said she supports a tax on

financial transactions or activities. [The Wall Street Journal](#) (5/20)    


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[How to Choose the Right Bank for Your Small Business](#) Shira Levine 

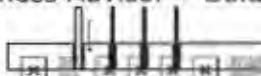
AICPA News

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all internal processes. Brought to you by the AICPA Trusted Business AdvisorSM Solutions

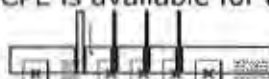
program. Tuesday, May 25, 2 to 3 p.m. ET. Free. [Sign up today.](#)



Register today: Roth Education Series -- Part 2

The second in this three-part educational series gets more in depth into planning considerations. Bob Keebler will discuss the following: basic recharacterizations; Roth IRAs payable to trusts; inefficient 691(c) deductions; postmortem Roth distributions; how to use insurance to keep your IRA intact after death; and how the surtax affects the Roth IRA. PFP and PFS attend for free without optional CPE. CPE is available for a nominal fee to all. Wednesday,

May 26, 1 to 2:30 p.m. ET. [Register now.](#)



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What kind of man would live where there is no daring? I don't believe in taking foolish chances, but nothing can be accomplished without taking any chance at all."

--Charles A. Lindbergh,
American aviator



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This CPA Letter Daily was created for rlagerblade@ia-sb.org

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The [American Institute of Certified Public Accountants](#) is the national, professional organization for all certified public accountants. Its mission is to provide members with the resources, information and leadership that enable them to provide valuable services in the highest professional manner to benefit the public as well as employers and clients. In fulfilling its mission, the AICPA works with state CPA organizations and gives priority to those areas where public reliance on CPA skills is most significant.

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[Wednesday, May 19, 2010](#)
[Tuesday, May 18, 2010](#)
[Monday, May 17, 2010](#)
[Friday, May 14, 2010](#)

Lead Editor: [Sean McMahon](#)

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 4:52 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: IASB - Requested Documents

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I'll get something to you tomorrow.

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 5:16 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan; Kauffman, Clark
Cc: Washburn, Carolyn; Brubaker, Randy
Subject: Re: IASB - Requested Documents

Megan,

Thanks for the information. If you have contact information you'd like to provide, feel free to send it.

As for the term "kickbacks," the reality is that these payments, characterized by IASB as "royalties," are viewed by others as "kickbacks" in the sense that they are payments made to IASB by Welch that are tied to the purchases made with Welch by IASB's own members.

Is this arrangement similar to those used by other private associations and organizations? Yes it is, absolutely. For example, the nonprofit Iowa Educators Consortium collects money from a private, for-profit vendor who sells food to consortium-member school districts under an exclusive contract.

But here's the thing: The legality of that arrangement at IEC has been questioned by the USDA and by the vendor's competitors, who are suing to halt the practice because they believe the payments to the nonprofit amount to kickbacks and that the arrangement stifles competitive pricing.

Predictably, IASB has had similar questions raised with regard to its playground resurfacing program. I can't pretend that those questions don't exist or that they are all based on some sort of misunderstanding of how the program works. But if you have specific program information that shows why these payments should be considered royalties and not kickbacks, let me know and I will include that specific information in the story. Right now, it appears to me that there's no dispute over how the program works ... The only question appears to be whether it should work that way.

Clark

On 5/19/10 4:41 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Clark-

Although IASB does not currently fall under the open records law, we are providing the documents that you have requested, and they are attached.

Veronica Stalker's contract should be straightforward, and reflects information I have already shared with you. In the second document, I have compiled for you both background and figures on the playground compliance program.

It is critical that you understand that the partnership IASB has with the playground compliance group, as well as other vendors, is entirely legal and legitimate, and that it is no different from partnerships or sponsorships that hospitals or other membership organizations have with other entities. We believe that all of IASB's programs and partnerships provide valuable services to schools, and we would ask that you keep in mind the damage that is done when the media repeats unfounded accusations of "kickbacks," which have a negative connotation of illegal activity, of which we have no evidence. If you do decide to report any more on this program or others, we ask that you do due diligence, and would encourage you to speak with schools that have used such programs - I would be glad to provide you with contacts.

Thank you.

Megan (Hawkins) Forgrave
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Fax: (515) 247-4680
www.ia-sb.org <<http://www.ia-sb.org/>><<http://www.ia-sb.org/>>

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To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: RE: Qwest Presentation - Fort Dodge

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FAX: (515) 243-4992
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and remember that Life's a Great Balancing Act
Just never forget to be dexterous and deft,
And never mix up your right foot with your left,"
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From: Bloyer, Charissa
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 11:56 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Qwest Presentation - Fort Dodge

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From: Gannon, Mary
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 10:04 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: RE: IASB - Requested Documents

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hmmm, isn't the IEC also a federal law issue, too? I thought that was the bigger issue - not going out for bids. Not a requirement of us. Don't necessarily want to raise that but it does distinguish it.

-----Original Message-----

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 9:26 AM
To: Gannon, Mary
Subject: FW: IASB - Requested Documents

Read below.

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckkauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 5:16 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan; Kauffman, Clark
Cc: Washburn, Carolyn; Brubaker, Randy
Subject: Re: IASB - Requested Documents

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To: 'nolden.gentry@brickgentrylaw.com'; 'Kathy Zehr'; Stalker, Veronica; Heiligenthal, Harry; 'Laura Luetje'; Albers, Jennifer; 'Doug Fulton'
Subject: Clark Kauffman response
Importance: High
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Predictably, IASB has had similar questions raised with regard to its playground resurfacing program. I can't pretend that those questions don't exist or that they are all based on some sort of misunderstanding of how the program works. But if you have specific program information that shows why these payments should be considered royalties and not kickbacks, let me know and I will include that specific information in the story. Right now, it appears to me that there's no dispute over how the program works ... The only question appears to be whether it should work that way.

Clark

On 5/19/10 4:41 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Clark-

Although IASB does not currently fall under the open records law, we are providing the documents that you have requested, and they are attached.

Veronica Stalker's contract should be straightforward, and reflects information I have already shared with you. In the second document, I have compiled for you both background and figures on the playground compliance program.

It is critical that you understand that the partnership IASB has with the playground compliance group, as well as other vendors, is entirely legal and legitimate, and that it is no different from partnerships or sponsorships that hospitals or

other membership organizations have with other entities. We believe that all of IASB's programs and partnerships provide valuable services to schools, and we would ask that you keep in mind the damage that is done when the media repeats unfounded accusations of "kickbacks," which have a negative connotation of illegal activity, of which we have no evidence. If you do decide to report any more on this program or others, we ask that you do due diligence, and would encourage you to speak with schools that have used such programs - I would be glad to provide you with contacts.

Thank you.

Megan (Hawkins) Forgrave
Communications Director
Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312-1417
(515) 288-1991, ext. 236
1-800-795-4272
Direct Line: (515) 247-7036
Cell: (515) 229-1705
Fax: (515) 247-4680
www.ia-sb.org <<http://www.ia-sb.org/>><<http://www.ia-sb.org/>>

Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 4:42 PM
To: 'CLARK KAUFFMAN'
Cc: 'Washburn, Carolyn'; 'Brubaker, Randy'
Subject: IASB - Requested Documents
Attachments: 0981_001.pdf; PlaygroundFAQ - Final.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Clark-

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Search

From: Laura Luetje <Laura.Luetje@brickgentrylaw.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 3:40 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap
Attachments: image001.gif; image001.gif; image001.gif

Follow Up Flag: Follow Up
Flag Status: Flagged




On May 19, 2010, at 3:39 PM, Forgrave, Megan wrote:





From: Laura Luetje [mailto:Laura.Luetje@brickgentrylaw.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 3:35 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap


On May 19, 2010, at 3:30 PM, Forgrave, Megan wrote:

Laura-



Megan

From: Laura Luetje [mailto:Laura.Luetje@brickgentrylaw.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 4:32 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: tim@playgroundcompliance.com; Golden Gentry; Maxson, Connie; Doug Fulton; Albers, Jennifer; Kathy Zehr; Heiligenthal, Harry; Stalker, Veronica
Subject: Re: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap

Megan,


Laura

On May 18, 2010, at 1:49 PM, Forgrave, Megan wrote:

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Thanks much.

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<PlaygroundFAQ - MEF(2).docx>

Laura R. Luetje
Attorney at Law

<image001.txt>
Brick Gentry P.C.
6701 Westown Parkway, Ste. 100
West Des Moines, IA 50266
Phone: 515-274-1450
Fax: 515-274-1488
Laura.Luetje@BrickGentryLaw.com

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and it cannot be used, by any person (i) as a basis for avoiding federal tax penalties that may be imposed on that person, or (ii) to promote, market or recommend to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein.

<PlaygroundFAQ - Final.docx>

Laura R. Luetje
Attorney at Law

<image001.txt>
Brick Gentry P.C.
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West Des Moines, IA 50266
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Laura R. Luetje
Attorney at Law

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Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 3:37 PM
To: 'Laura Luetje'
Subject: RE: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap
Attachments: image001.gif

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[REDACTED]

From: Laura Luetje [mailto:Laura.Luetje@brickgentrylaw.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 3:35 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap

[REDACTED]

On May 19, 2010, at 3:30 PM, Forgrave, Megan wrote:

Laura-

[REDACTED]

Megan

From: Laura Luetje [mailto:Laura.Luetje@brickgentrylaw.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 4:32 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: tim@playgroundcompassance.com; Nolden Gentry; Maxson, Connie; Doug Fulton; Albers, Jennifer; Kathy Zehr; Heilgenthal, Harry; Stalder, Veronica
Subject: Re: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap

Megan,

[REDACTED]

Laura

On May 18, 2010, at 1:49 PM, Forgrave, Megan wrote:

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<PlaygroundFAQ - MEF(2).docx>

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[REDACTED]

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Laura-

[REDACTED]

Megan

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Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 4:32 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: tim@playgroundcompliance.com; Nolden Gentry; Maxson, Connie; Doug Fulton; Albers, Jennifer; Kathy Zehr; Heiligenthal, Harry; Stalker, Veronica
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Megan,

[REDACTED]

Laura

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 3:34 PM
To: 'Laura Luetje'; 'Doug Fulton'; 'Nolden Gentry'; Albers, Jennifer; 'Kathy Zehr'
Cc: Maxson, Connie; Heiligenthal, Harry; Stalker, Veronica
Subject: Final Playgrounds Document
Attachments: PlaygroundFAQ - Final.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

All-
Attached is the final version of the playgrounds document. I believe I have incorporated everyone's edits. Nolden, if you are ready to send to oversight committee members, please do. I intend to send this today to Clark Kauffman of the DM Register, along with Ronni's contract, both of which he has requested. Many thanks.

Megan

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Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 3:51 PM
To: 'Laura Luetje'
Subject: RE: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap
Attachments: PlaygroundFAQ - Final.docx; image001.gif

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Laura-

I have a condensed version of this at the end of the first paragraph... if there is still something missing, let me know today. Not sure what you mean about the legal language..... but thanks!

Megan

From: Laura Luetje [mailto:Laura.Luetje@brickgentrylaw.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 4:32 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: tim@playgroundcompliance.com; Nolden Gentry; Maxson, Connie; Doug Fulton; Albers, Jennifer; Kathy Zehr; Heiligenthal, Harry; Stalker, Veronica
Subject: Re: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap

Megan,

I would include the draft language the I had emailed to you regarding fees rather than the purely legal language. Let me know if you have questions. Thanks

Laura

On May 18, 2010, at 1:49 PM, Forgrave, Megan wrote:

All-

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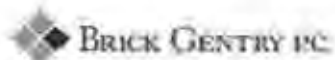
Thanks much.

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Search

From: Stalker, Veronica
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 3:20 PM
To: 'dblair@is-sb.org'
Subject: FW: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Will you ask Megan for a copy of the study Jen mentions. Thanks.

From: Albers, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 5:59 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: Heiligenthal, Harry; Stalker, Veronica; 'tim@playgroundcompliance.com'; 'Nolden Gentry'; Maxson, Connie; 'Laura Luetje'; 'Doug Fulton'; 'Kathy Zehr'
Subject: RE: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap

Megan

This looks good to me. One suggestion, if no one on this email has personally taken a look at the study cited in this write up, I'd suggest someone do so as question about it may come up. We should have the study at our fingertips and make sure that if we're using that as a marketing tool, that someone from IASB has personally reviewed it.

Thanks!
Jen

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 1:50 PM
To: tim@playgroundcompliance.com; 'Nolden Gentry'; Maxson, Connie; Laura Luetje; Doug Fulton; Albers, Jennifer; 'Kathy Zehr'
Cc: Heiligenthal, Harry; Stalker, Veronica
Subject: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap

All-

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Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 9:42 AM
To: 'tim@playgroundcompliance.com'
Subject: RE: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sounds good.

From: Tim Mahoney [mailto:tim@playgroundcompliance.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 8:58 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap

Megan -

I'll cal you this morning.

Tim

--- mforgrave@ia-sb.org wrote:

From: "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org>
To: <tim@playgroundcompliance.com>, "Nolden Gentry" <nolden.gentry@brickgentrylaw.com>, "Maxson, Connie" <CMaxson@IA-SB.org>, "Laura Luetje" <Laura.Luetje@brickgentrylaw.com>, "Doug Fulton" <douglas.fulton@brickgentrylaw.com>, "Albers, Jennifer" <jalbers@ia-sb.org>, "Kathy Zehr" <kzehr@lwbj.com>
Cc: "Heilighenthal, Harry" <hheilighenthal@ia-sb.org>, "Stalker, Veronica" <vstalker@IA-SB.org>
Subject: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap
Date: Tue, 18 May 2010 13:49:45 -0500

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Thanks much.

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Communications Director
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6000 Grand Avenue
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(515) 288-1991, ext. 236
1-800-795-4272
Direct Line: (515) 247-7036
Cell: (515) 229-1705

Fax: (515) 247-4680
www.ia-sb.org

Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 9:23 AM
To: 'Forgrave, Reid'
Subject: RE: um, Yvonne now has a parakeet

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzWsdRV2tLQ>

Aric West
The Des Moines Register
515-286-2534
515-286-2504 (fax)
aricwest@dmreg.com

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Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 8:58 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Megan -

I'll cal you this morning.

Tim

--- mforgrave@ia-sb.org wrote:

From: "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org>
To: <tim@playgroundcompliance.com>, "Nolden Gentry" <nolden.gentry@brickgentrylaw.com>, "Maxson, Connie" <CMaxson@IA-SB.org>, "Laura Luetje" <Laura.Luetje@brickgentrylaw.com>, "Doug Fulton" <douglas.fulton@brickgentrylaw.com>, "Albers, Jennifer" <jalbers@ia-sb.org>, "Kathy Zehr" <kzehr@lwbj.com>
Cc: "Heiligenthal, Harry" <hheiligenthal@ia-sb.org>, "Stalker, Veronica" <vstalker@IA-SB.org>
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Date: Apr 30, 2010
Start Page: n/a
Section: NEWS

ckauffman@dmreg.com

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Search

From: Heiligenthal, Harry
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 10:50 PM
To: Gvist, Lou Ann; Forgrave, Megan; Green, Diane; Kruse, Paul
Subject: LG/MF/DG/PK-concerns of Jennifer P re playground program

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Lou Ann, Megan, Paul, and Diane,

Thanks for the heads up. Depending on how the call goes with Jennifer, we may be deciding to involve Nolden or Laura L for subsequent conversations with her.

Looks like our call will be an interesting conversation (and this may be a foretaste of possibly many more to come).

HH

-----Original Message-----

From: Gvist, Lou Ann
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 9:21 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan; Green, Diane; Kruse, Paul; Heiligenthal, Harry
Subject: FW: Welch Products

See Jennifer's note before the article. Lou Ann

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Des Moines Register - Des Moines, Iowa

Author: CLARK KAUFFMAN
Date: Apr 30, 2010
Start Page: n/a
Section: NEWS

Text Word Count: 481

Document Text

ckauffman@dmreg.com

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Cc: Heiligenthal, Harry; Stalker, Veronica; 'tim@playgroundcompliance.com'; 'Nolden Gentry'; Maxson, Connie; 'Laura Luetje'; 'Doug Fulton'; 'Kathy Zehr'
Subject: RE: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap

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Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 5:28 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan; Kauffman, Clark
Cc: Washburn, Carolyn; Brubaker, Randy
Subject: Re: IASB records

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OK, thanks.

On 5/18/10 5:27 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Hi Clark-
I should have both of these documents tomorrow and will email them.

Megan

Megan (Hawkins) Forgrave
Communications Director
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1-800-795-4272
Direct Line: (515) 247-7036
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Fax: (515) 247-4680
www.ia-sb.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 10:31 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: Washburn, Carolyn; Brubaker, Randy
Subject: IASB records

Megan,

On April 29, I asked for some specific information on the money IASB collects from Welch Products.

On May 3, I asked for a copy of the new executive director's contract.

Is any of that information available yet?

Clark

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From: Clark Kauffman <ckauffma@dmreg.com>
Date: Thu, 29 Apr 2010 17:47:58 -0500
To: "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org>
Conversation: Update?
Subject: Re: Update?

OK, thanks.

I know that Larry's testimony raised some questions for lawmakers today ... and will for readers, as well.

Would it be possible for you to provide a breakdown of the fees paid by Welch Products to IASB for school purchases of playground tile? I'd like to know the rate of pay (per tile?) and the total amount paid since the program was launched.

I realize you may not have those numbers at your fingertips, but perhaps you could provide them next week? (I assume there's an IASB contract with Welch, and I'd like to see that, also.)

Clark

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From: Clark Kauffman <ckauffma@dmreg.com>
Date: Mon, 03 May 2010 16:24:52 -0500
To: "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org>
Conversation: IASB Names Interim Executive Director
Subject: Re: IASB Names Interim Executive Director

Megan,

Can you send me a copy of Veronica's contract?

Also, can you tell me whether she applied for the executive director's job in 2009?

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From: Forgrave, Megan
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Cc: 'Washburn, Carolyn'; 'Brubaker, Randy'
Subject: RE: IASB records

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Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 5:03 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: tim@playgroundcompliance.com; Nolden Gentry; Laura Luetje; Doug Fulton; Albers, Jennifer; Kathy Zehr; Heiligenthal, Harry; Stalker, Veronica
Subject: Re: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap

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Sent from my iPhone

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 4:41 PM
To: 'Laura Luetje'
Subject: RE: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap
Attachments: image001.gif

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: Laura Luetje [mailto:Laura.Luetje@brickgentrylaw.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 4:32 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: tim@playgroundcompliance.com; Nolden Gentry; Maxson, Connie; Doug Fulton; Albers, Jennifer; Kathy Zehr; Heiligenthal, Harry; Stalker, Veronica
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Laura

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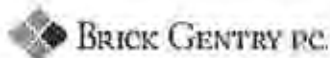
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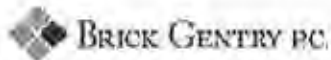
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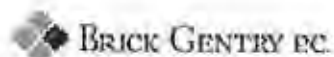
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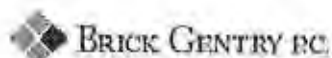
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Megan (Hawkins) Forgrave
Communications Director
Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312-1417
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1-800-795-4272
Direct Line: (515) 247-7036
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www.ia-sb.org

<PlaygroundFAQ - MEF(2).docx>

Laura R. Luetje
Attorney at Law



Brick Gentry P.C.
6701 Westown Parkway, Ste. 100
West Des Moines, IA 50266
Phone: 515-274-1450
Fax: 515-274-1488
Laura.Luetje@BrickGentryLaw.com

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 1:57 PM
To: 'Kathy Zehr'
Subject: RE: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Yes, he is. Thanks for the feedback!

Megan

From: Kathy Zehr [mailto:kzehr@lwbj.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 1:54 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: RE: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap

Hi Megan

I thought that the narrative was good. Is Tim someone from National Playgrounds? If not, someone from there should take a look at this.

Thanks
Kathy

Kathleen Zehr, CPA
Capital Advisors
LWBJ Financial
4200 University Avenue, Suite 410
West Des Moines, IA 50266
Direct: (515) 440-7042

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From: Forgrave, Megan [mailto:mforgrave@ia-sb.org]
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To: tim@playgroundcompliance.com; Nolden Gentry; Maxson, Connie; Laura Luetje; Doug Fulton; Albers, Jennifer; Kathy Zehr
Cc: Heiligenthal, Harry; Stalker, Veronica
Subject: Playgrounds - new draft - please review asap

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From: Jennifer Pospichal <jennifer@outdoorrec.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 10:37 AM
To: Gvist, Lou Ann
Cc: Bill Pospichal; Rick Ertz
Subject: FW: Welch Products

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Lou Ann,
Here is the article. The is no "National Safe Surfacing Initiative" or "National Playground Compliance Group". These are misleading names that Welch Products has come up with to promote themselves. It also appears that the Iowa DNR is complicit in this, and I am going to check into that as well.

Jennifer

Lawmaker: School board group collects 'kickbacks'

Des Moines Register - Des Moines, Iowa

Author: CLARK KAUFFMAN

Date: Apr 30, 2010

Start Page: n/a

Section: NEWS

Text Word Count: 481

Document Text

ckuffman@dmreg.com

The Iowa Association of School Boards is collecting what one state lawmaker calls "kickbacks" for endorsing products purchased by Iowa schools.

Former IASB finance director Larry Sigel testified before the Government Oversight Committee on Thursday about an IASB program that uses grants and interest-free loans to help schools resurface their playgrounds with rubber tiles.

Rep. Clel Baudler, a Greenfield Republican, asked Sigel about "kickbacks" that a private company, Welch Products of Carlisle, provides IASB in exchange for the association's endorsement of the company's playground tiles.

Sigel said school districts that agree to purchase the tiles from Welch Products though the association's Iowa Playground Surfacing Program are offered financial assistance in the form of grants and loans.

The IASB then collects a fee from Welch for each playground tile that school districts purchase from the company, Sigel said.

The grants and loans are not available to schools that want to purchase playground tiles from another supplier, he said.

The IASB has described the program as a partnership with the National Safe Surfacing Initiative, which is a name used by Welch Products to describe its sales and marketing division, and the National Playground Compliance Group, which is another entity run by Welch Products.

Sigel told legislators that there is nothing improper with the arrangement and that virtually all of the IASB programs for Iowa schools generate some sort of revenue for the association.

There was no discussion at the hearing of the total amount of fees collected by IASB through the Iowa Playground Surfacing Program.

State records show the grants to help schools acquire the playground tiles come through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Sigel was also asked at the hearing about the contract he signed with IASB last spring shortly before his resignation took effect. That contract called for IASB to pay Sigel's newly formed private company \$300,000 over three years in return for various lobbying and financial-education services.

The agreement was significant in that it involved the commitment of taxpayer money to help association-controlled enterprises compete with private companies in offering financial services to Iowa's school districts.

As part of the arrangement, Sigel agreed to have his new company "advocate participation" in the association by Iowa schools. He also agreed to make presentations on school finance to the association's member districts.

Part of his contract called for Sigel to report back to the association on public school districts that were not using certain programs and services that generated revenue for IASB.

At Thursday's hearing, Baudler referred to the arrangement as IASB-sponsored "spying."

"We call that marketing," Sigel said.

Shortly after IASB signed the contract with Sigel, Maxine Kilcrease was hired as the association's executive director. Within a few months, IASB was suing Sigel for failing to fulfill the terms of his contract.

The association fired Kilcrease on March 25. Five days later, the association dropped its lawsuit against Sigel.

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From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 10:31 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: Washburn, Carolyn; Brubaker, Randy
Subject: IASB records

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Megan,

On April 29, I asked for some specific information on the money IASB collects from Welch Products.

On May 3, I asked for a copy of the new executive director's contract.

Is any of that information available yet?

Clark

=====

From: Clark Kauffman <ckauffma@dmreg.com>
Date: Thu, 29 Apr 2010 17:47:58 -0500
To: "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org>
Conversation: Update?
Subject: Re: Update?

OK, thanks.

I know that Larry's testimony raised some questions for lawmakers today ... and will for readers, as well.

Would it be possible for you to provide a breakdown of the fees paid by Welch Products to IASB for school purchases of playground tile? I'd like to know the rate of pay (per tile?) and the total amount paid since the program was launched.

I realize you may not have those numbers at your fingertips, but perhaps you could provide them next week? (I assume there's an IASB contract with Welch, and I'd like to see that, also.)

Clark

=====

From: Clark Kauffman <ckauffma@dmreg.com>
Date: Mon, 03 May 2010 16:24:52 -0500

To: "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org>
Conversation: IASB Names Interim Executive Director
Subject: Re: IASB Names Interim Executive Director

Megan,

Can you send me a copy of Veronica's contract?

Also, can you tell me whether she applied for the executive director's job in 2009?

Clark

Search

From: AARP SmartBrief <aarp@smartbrief.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 2:04 PM
To: Olesen, Susie
Subject: May 13, 2010 - Older unemployed Americans spend more time out of the workforce

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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May 13, 2010

E-mail news for employers

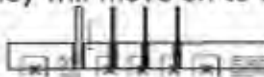
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Top Stories

Older unemployed Americans spend more time out of the workforce

The number of people out of work six months or longer continued to increase in April, according to statistics. An AARP Public Policy Institute analysis found that 56.8% of jobless Americans older than 55 were out of work for longer than six months as of April, up from 50.6% in March. Experts say older workers spend more time out of the workforce in part because some employers won't hire experienced employees, perceiving they will move on to a higher-paying

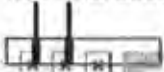
job when the economy recovers. [The Huffington Post](#) (5/7)



Boomers experience the brunt of the recession

The unemployment rate for baby boomers recently increased to 7.2%. That's the highest level for the age group since after World War II. Meanwhile, government data show that the number of boomers who have given up the job search and have started to draw Social Security benefits

has increased sharply over the past year. [National Public Radio \(text and audio\)](#) (5/2)



Industry & Workplace Trends

Networks, experience give boomer entrepreneurs an advantage

Baby boomers are launching businesses at a faster pace than any other age group, according to a study by the nonprofit Kauffman Foundation. The group found that Americans between 55 and 64 started about 10,000 new businesses a month between 2007 and 2008. Experts also note that older workers have the advantage of knowledge gained over the course of their careers

and extensive networks to tap when starting a business. [SecondAct.com](#) (4/15)





Senior citizens are increasingly becoming business owners: Older Americans are more likely to start their own small businesses than younger counterparts, according to recent research. In part, that's because older workers have more job skills and confidence to go into business for themselves, experts say, but Anita Campbell also notes that after being laid off, more older people are unable to find a job working for someone else. [Small Business Trends](#)

(5/2)

Study: Older workers will be needed to fill job vacancies

In less than 10 years, the U.S. will have a labor shortage, leaving 30% to 40% of jobs in the social sector vacant, according to research from Northeastern University. To deal with the issue, employers should encourage employees to work longer and reach out to "encore" careers

among older Americans, the report says. [Employee Benefit News](#) (5/2)

Work values vary by generation, experts say

Work attitudes vary significantly among different generations, experts say. Baby boomers, for example, tend to value intrinsic rewards more than the latest generation of workers, which puts a higher valuation on leisure time. Meanwhile, experts also note that younger workers are having a harder time securing employment because fewer boomers are retiring. [The Atlanta](#)

[Journal-Constitution](#) (free registration) (5/3)



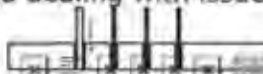
AARP News



Free AARP webinar on resume writing Thursday, June 17, 2 to 3 p.m. EDT

Throughout 2010, AARP offers free webinars for older workers. The next webinar, "Refresh Your Resume for Today's Job Market," will explain how the over-50 job seeker can develop a resume that stands out from the competition. The webinar offers tips on choosing the right format and dealing with issues

such as age, dates and employment gaps. [Learn more.](#)



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[Employer Resource Center](#)

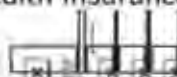
[AARP Research](#)

Law and Regulation

Law will help fund retiree health care

Legislation signed this month earmarks \$5 billion in federal funds to help companies fund retiree health insurance programs. The funds will be available June 1 and will pay for health insurance

for retirees who are not yet eligible for Medicare. [Bloomberg Businessweek](#) (5/4)



Iowa man, AARP support changes to age-discrimination laws

AARP is supporting an Iowa resident's push to get Congress to provide more protection to older workers. Jack Gross and AARP support legislation that would make it easier for older Americans to prove age discrimination. Gross is optimistic that lawmakers will approve the proposal. "I believe Congress has a long history of working together, on a bipartisan basis, to create and

maintain a level playing field in the workplace," he said. [Bloomberg Businessweek/The](#)

[Associated Press](#) (5/6)



Unemployment prompts boomers to file for early retirement

Social Security applications are up 20% this year, ahead of the 15% predicted by government officials. "That's a significant amount," said Jason Fichtner, chief economist at the Social Security Administration. Unemployment has prompted more baby boomers than initially anticipated to apply for Social Security benefits. [National Public Radio \(text and audio\)](#) (4/28)



SmartQuote



Don't be afraid of the space between your dreams and reality. If you can dream it, you can make it so."

--Belva Davis,
American journalist and feminist



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[Thursday, April 01, 2010](#)
[Thursday, March 18, 2010](#)
[Thursday, March 04, 2010](#)

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[REDACTED]

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...in the past, under open records, but we can't find it at this point.

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1000

Any word yet on the availability of Ronnie's contract or the information we requested last week on the payments from Welch Products?

Clark

On 5/7/10 1:46 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Note to Media-

Next week is Iowa's School Board Recognition Week, May 9-15, 2010.

Attached you will find the press release, fact sheet, public service announcements and artwork - there are more materials at www.ia-sb.org <<http://www.ia-sb.org>><<http://www.ia-sb.org>> .

Local school boards all across the state have been dealing with significant issues this year, from budget cuts to decisions on federal programs. We encourage you to consider some coverage next week of the extensive work that they do on behalf of all Iowa students.

Please note - I will be out of the office the rest of the day, but you can reach me next week with questions. Thank you.

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Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2010 4:17 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Cc: 'cwashbur@dmreg.com'; 'Brubaker, Randy'
Subject: RE: News Release: School Board Recognition Week, May 9-15

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Clark-

I didn't expect that you would do much with School Board Recognition Week, just thought I'd include you in the media list on some of our core work.

I will check in on the other pieces - our new executive director has been out on the road meeting with members all week.

Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2010 3:35 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: Brubaker, Randy; Washburn, Carolyn
Subject: Re: News Release: School Board Recognition Week, May 9-15

Megan,

Thanks for the School Board Recognition Week materials. I'll take a look at those now.

Any word yet on the availability of Ronnie's contract or the information we requested last week on the payments from Welch Products?

Clark

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Please note - I will be out of the office the rest of the day, but you can reach me next week with questions. Thank you.

Megan (Hawkins) Forgrave
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1-800-795-4272
Direct Line: (515) 247-7036
Cell: (515) 229-1705
Fax: (515) 247-4680
www.ia-sb.org <<http://www.ia-sb.org/>><<http://www.ia-sb.org/>>

Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2010 4:15 PM
To: 'Nolden Gentry'; Stalker, Veronica
Subject: Requests for Register
Attachments: PlaygroundFAQ.doc

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Nolden and Ronni-

Please note Clark Kauffman's request below. He has asked for a copy of Ronni's contract - we are not required to give it to him at this point as we don't fall under open records, but we certainly could be cooperative if we want... Please let me know how to respond.

Also, Nolden, I've started a fact sheet about the playgrounds program and it is attached - I am debating whether we need to include any info on the grant or on the evolution of Welch Products to a few different company names. I assume we should go ahead and share it with Clark? He had asked for the revenues we've gotten from the program, as well as the rate per tile (now it's a percentage).

Thanks...
Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckkauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2010 3:35 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: Brubaker, Randy; Washburn, Carolyn
Subject: Re: News Release: School Board Recognition Week, May 9-15

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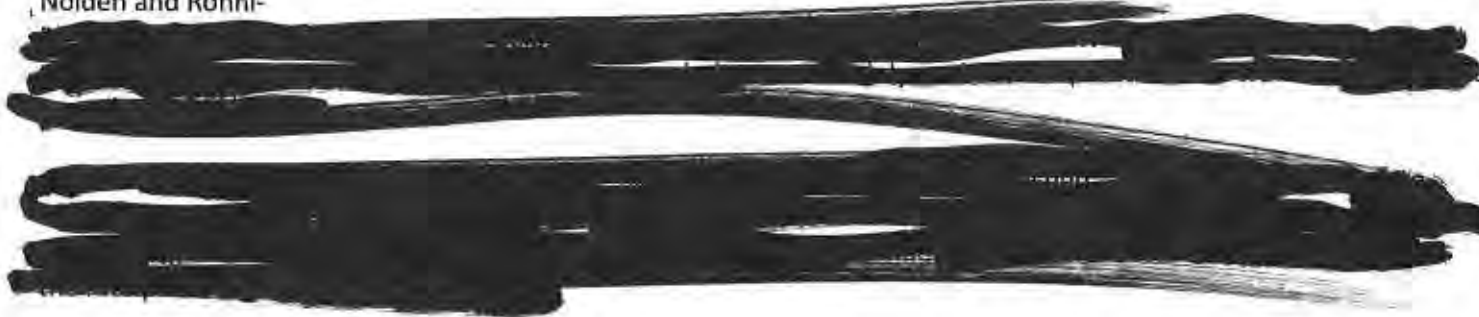
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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 12:00 PM
To: 'Jamie Buel't'
Subject: RE: IASB Concerns

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

If you can come right around 2 p.m., that would be great... I'll just buzz into the other meeting later because it turns out it's a bigger meeting that I don't think they absolutely need me for... I can give input later.

Thanks!!

-----Original Message-----

From: Jamie Buel't [mailto:jbuel't@enqstrategies.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 10:23 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: RE: IASB Concerns

Megan,

I tried to call your cell earlier. What looks good for you this afternoon after 2 p.m.?

-----Original Message-----

From: Forgrave, Megan [mailto:mforgrave@ia-sb.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 1:36 PM
To: Jamie Buel't
Subject: RE: IASB Concerns

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To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: IASB Concerns

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Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 11:10 AM
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Should I have also solicited a comment from you on the day's events or on Larry's testimony? Given Larry's expertise on the playground program, and the fact that he was the person who testified, and the fact there are no discrepancies between IASB's description of the program (which I used for my story) and Larry's description of it, I didn't have any specific questions for you as IASB's spokeswoman. But I did want to let you know I would be writing about that specific issue - hence my e-mail to you.

With regard to that e-mail, you say that you find it "incredibly misleading." You say that I led you to believe that I was "working on a story for the next week, not the next day."

My e-mail says: "I know that Larry's testimony raised some questions for lawmakers today ... and will for readers, as well. Would it be possible for you to provide a breakdown of the fees paid by Welch Products to IASB for school purchases of playground tile? I'd like to know the rate of pay (per tile?) and the total amount paid since the program was launched. I realize you may not have those numbers at your fingertips, but perhaps you could provide them next week? (I assume there's an IASB contract with Welch, and I'd like to see that, also.)"

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Let me know when the information is available.

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Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 10:23 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: RE: IASB Concerns

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To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Cc: rbrubaker@dmreg.com
Subject: IASB story on new CEO

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Clark-

I'm not sure why it seemed appropriate to compare the salary of an executive director of a statewide organization to the governor, who is an elected official and state employee, as you did in your story today. I would encourage you to look at the salaries of other executive directors at similar organizations in the education field, and you will find it is quite comparable to, say, the head of the teacher's union, the administrators organization, or the head of the department of education - or any superintendent of a large district, for that matter. In addition, if you annualize it sans health insurance (which I notice you added to her salary today) you will find that she is being paid less than what Maxine, so the board has made adjustments.

Instead, you continue to throw IASB under the bus - we had great news to announce, but it was turned upside down in the first sentence, rather than being told as straight news. If you ever feel it appropriate to talk to people in the field about our new leader, I would encourage you to do so - we selected her for her sterling reputation and leadership abilities, and it would be nice to hear that side of the story, too.

Once again, we ask for fairness.

Megan Forgrave
Communications Director
Iowa Association of School Boards

Search

From: Jamie Buelte <jbuelte@enqstrategies.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 2:00 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: IASB Concerns

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Racing and gaming. Here until 4 at least

Sent from my iPhone

On May 4, 2010, at 1:57 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

I'm not sure what that is... but... would you have any time tomorrow or Thursday to sit down over here and help us strategize about the message and avenues to members? One of the two webinars last night and meetings in the field are giving us some harsh feedback, and we are debating if we need to rethink our whole idea, which had included talking points, webinars, meetings around the state and board members making phone calls.....

Also, I need to give you our signed contract if the support staff hasn't mailed it yet... about where are you on hours?

From: Jamie Buelte [mailto:jbuelte@enqstrategies.com]
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I am @ IRGC.

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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Also, I need to give you our signed contract if the support staff hasn't mailed it yet... about where are you on hours?

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Megan,

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Let me know when the information is available.

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Direct Line: (515) 247-7036
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-----Original Message-----

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Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 5:48 PM
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Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 3:55 PM

To: Forgrave, Megan

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Megan,

Any word on the handwriting analysis or Jack Hill's ties to the recruiting firm?

Clark

Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 11:25 AM
To: 'Jamie Buelt'
Subject: FW: IASB Concerns

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I couldn't believe today's article... And fyi, here was Clark's response... I've got a message in to see if we can still talk to Carolyn Washburn today.

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From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 11:10 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan; Kauffman, Clark
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Cc: Washburn, Carolyn; Brubaker, Randy; Nolden Gentry
Subject: Re: IASB Concerns

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Search

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 5:27 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Google Alert - Iowa school board

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Google News Alert for: **Iowa school board**

School board group hires an interim director

DesMoinesRegister.com

By CLARK KAUFFMAN • ckauffinan@dmreg.com • May 4, 2010 The Iowa Association of School Boards will pay its temporary executive director \$11905 per month ...

[See all stories on this topic](#)

Council opposes new high school

Iowa City Press Citizen

The Iowa City Council will draft a formal letter in the next few days urging the Iowa City School Board not to support a third comprehensive high school, ...

[See all stories on this topic](#)

A nice guy with controversial views

DesMoinesRegister.com

He served on the Carroll School Board from 1996 until his election to the Iowa House of Representatives in 2000, where he has served five terms. ...

[See all stories on this topic](#)

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[Manage your alerts.](#)

Search

From: Nolden Gentry <nolden.gentry@brickgentrylaw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 2:10 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: RE: IASB Concerns

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Megan:

Could you draft a short note that I could send to Sen.Olive and Rep.Lensing asking that they send us a list of any inquiries that Committee members might have so that we could respond in advance of the next Oversight Committee meeting.

-----Original Message-----

From: Forgrave, Megan [mailto:mforgrave@ia-sb.org]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 7:00 PM
To: Kauffman, Clark
Cc: cwashbur@dmreg.com; Brubaker, Randy; Nolden Gentry
Subject: IASB Concerns

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Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 9:28 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: RE: IASB Concerns

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Megan:

The Oversight Hearing suggests that Larry's testimony raised questions or better yet a statement from one Committee member.

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From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 5:48 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Update?

OK, thanks.

I know that Larry's testimony raised some questions for lawmakers today ... and will for readers, as well.

Would it be possible for you to provide a breakdown of the fees paid by Welch Products to IASB for school purchases of playground tile? I'd like to know the rate of pay (per tile?) and the total amount paid since the program was launched.

I realize you may not have those numbers at your fingertips, but perhaps you could provide them next week? (I assume there's an IASB contract with Welch, and I'd like to see that, also.)

Clark

On 4/29/10 5:36 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Regarding Jack Hill's ties to the recruiting firm, here's what I know; you may want to double-check this with Jack, his attorney or the search firm because I have only spoken with people currently here.

I understand that Jack and Dick VandeKieft (former board member who was on the board at the time) had both at some point in the past assisted with some of the firm's searches; for those searches that they helped with, they would have received some pay. I believe they disclosed all of that at the beginning of the process, and explained that they would not receive any pay for the IASB search, as they were not involved in it in any way from the search firm's side. I do not know what kind of work either of them did on any other searches, or how extensive it was.

Thanks,
Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark (mailto:ckkauffma@desmoine.gannett.com)

Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 3:55 PM

To: Forgrave, Megan

Subject: Update?

Megan,

Any word on the handwriting analysis or Jack Hill's ties to the recruiting firm?

Clark

Search

From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 5:01 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: IASB Names Interim Executive Director

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Well, we'd like a copy of that contract, but I understand if no one there at the IASB office has one right now. Still, consider this a formal request - not that we ever make informal requests :) -- for that contract.

Clark

On 5/3/10 4:43 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

I don't have a copy of her contract, and Nolden is at another engagement the rest of the day.

Ronni tells me she did not apply for the executive director position in 2009 - she was semi-retired and not interested in a long-term position.
Thanks.

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From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 4:25 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: IASB Names Interim Executive Director

Megan,

Can you send me a copy of Veronica's contract?

Also, can you tell me whether she applied for the executive director's job in 2009?

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On 5/3/10 3:35 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Note to Media:

The Iowa Association of School Boards has named an interim executive director for the remainder of the year. Please see the attached press release and bio, and contact me with additional questions.

Thank you very much.

Megan (Hawkins) Forgrave
Communications Director
Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312-1417
(515) 288-1991, ext. 236
1-800-795-4272
Direct Line: (515) 247-7036
Cell: (515) 229-1705
Fax: (515) 247-4680
www.ia-sb.org <<http://www.ia-sb.org/>><<http://www.ia-sb.org/>><<http://www.ia-sb.org/>><<http://www.ia-sb.org/>>

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Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 4:06 PM
To: jejacobs@dmreg.com
Subject: Clarification...

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From: Ricci, Patrick
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 6:17 PM
To: 'Lance Melton'
Cc: Wiesley, Russ; Kilcrease, Maxine; 'Debra Silk'
Subject: RE: Problems at Iowa Association of School Boards
Attachments: MTFeb10.xls

Lance, Thanks for bringing your concerns to our attention. I will address each of your points.

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2. PaySchools system for forwarding collected funds to our member schools is automated and within the PaySchools reporting tool our members are able to reconcile processed transactions against PaySchools deposits on a daily basis to confirm they are receiving all funds on processed transactions.
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Few additional points:

1. The IASB Board will be meeting with our regular auditors, Brooks-Lodden, this week to review the financial condition of the organization. Brooks-Lodden has been our auditing firm for many years and is working to complete the regular 2009 audit.
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Please feel free to contact me if you need further information or have additional questions. Thanks Pat

Patrick Ricci
National Marketing Director
Iowa Association of School Boards

Office (281) 545-1957
Cell (281) 705-1038

From: Lance Melton [mailto:lmelton@mtsba.org]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 8:00 AM
To: Ricci, Patrick
Cc: Wiesley, Russ; Kilcrease, Maxine; Debra Silk; MTSBA Directors
Subject: Problems at Iowa Association of School Boards

Dear Mr. Ricci (copied to Maxine Kilcrease, IASB Executive Director and Russ Wiesley, IASB President):

First, let me express my condolences for the financial problems facing the Iowa Association of School Boards. We have long admired your work on the role of the school board in student achievement and in other areas and it is hard to see a fellow state school boards association going through problems and related media scrutiny, some of which is likely inaccurate and/or otherwise unfair as most media coverage is at one time or another.

I read a fairly troubling story in the Des Moines Register about financial and other problems facing IASB and that story also indicates the possibly of related problems at Pay Schools. I have pasted that article below in case you have not seen it (which is doubtful, I realize). In any case, as you know from our general counsel, Debra Silk's previous inquiries, we have made a previous inquiry regarding the accuracy of the royalty payments to MTSBA by Pay Schools. Specifically, we have a couple of relatively large school districts who have advised our marketing partner, the Montana Association of School Business Officials, that they are using Pay Schools for transactions but there have been virtually no royalty payments to MTSBA. To date we have chalked that up to the program taking some time to gather steam, and we accepted your previous assurance that the royalty payments were accurate, but in light of the article below we would like to have your personal assurance of the following:

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4. A complete list of the school districts in Montana using Pay Schools

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Please confirm receipt of this email and please respond to my requests above.

Sincerely,

Lance L. Melton
Executive Director
Montana School Boards Association
(406) 442-2180
(406) 442-2194 (Fax)
(406) 439-2180 (Cell)

School board group faces fraud probe, money crisis

By CLARK KAUFFMAN • ckaufman@dmreg.com • © 2010, Des Moines Register and Tribune Co. • March 7, 2010
A group funded with taxpayer money is in the midst of a financial crisis and has asked forensic auditors to look for evidence of fraud and criminal activity at the organization.

Two teams of auditors are going through records of the Iowa Association of School Boards. One of them is looking into allegations that:

- Public money was used for a former executive's vacation to Bora Bora.
- Staffers not only kept board members in the dark about financial problems but actively misled them about a multimillion-dollar business deal.

- A for-profit company run by an association executive received \$5 million from the organization.

In addition, the group's executive director has acknowledged collecting \$59,000 in extra pay over the past eight months, but says she might have been "set up" by the association's chief financial officer. There are also allegations of conflicts of interest, nepotism, lax financial controls and inadequate board oversight.

Auditors and association officials say they don't yet know the full scope of the agency's problems or whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead. They said they hope to know more when the association's governing board meets this week.

"It makes me feel totally nauseated," said association board president Russ Wiesley, a Waukee school board member. "It's gut-wrenching."

Board member Jack Hill, who represents the North Scott Community School District, said it's not clear what went wrong.

"Apparently we're out of money and we've got to figure out how we got there," said Hill, who still serves on the board's executive committee.

The association collects annual dues, ranging from \$726 to \$10,366, from all of Iowa's 361 public school districts. It spends at least \$2.4 million worth of government grants each year, and it collects millions more from conferences, consulting and cash-management programs funded by schools. Its mission is to improve public education through training and research that help Iowa's locally elected school boards.

In recent years, though, the association has expanded to include a number of business ventures that serve schools in as many as 40 states. Some of those business ventures don't relate directly to the work of school boards, and some are tied to the association's current financial crisis.

Controversies swirl around past CFO

Some of the allegations of wrongdoing center on Kevin Schick, who served as the association's chief financial officer from last summer through early January.

Schick allegedly told board members last year that eBay officials had committed to buying one of the association's business ventures, PaySchools, a national business that manages financial accounts. When the deal failed to materialize, Schick told the board that eBay executives had flown in to close the deal, but changed their minds in the plane after hearing that former association officials were involved in some type of litigation.

In reality, the deal was never seriously considered and there were no such lawsuits, association officials say. "It was all fabricated," said Mary Delagardelle, the association's deputy executive director.

Schick was fired in January after officials concluded he had lied to the staff and the board about the eBay deal. Association officials say they then found evidence that he had used an Iowa School Board Association credit card to buy airline tickets for a vacation trip to Bora Bora, a tropical island in the South Pacific.

At least some of that \$1,100 expense appears to have been repaid, association officials said.

Board members say Schick once told them he owned an island off the coast of Florida and showed them a photo of it during a board meeting. There are conflicting accounts as to where the idea originated, but late last year someone at the association suggested the organization's top executives hold a retreat on the island, with Schick personally flying them there.

The island retreat was placed on staff members' electronic calendars, but association officials say that was done in jest and no one seriously considered traveling there.

Board records indicate that before he was fired, Schick offered to personally loan the association \$2 million so it could pay for the remodeling of, and the mortgage on, the association's Grand Avenue headquarters in Des Moines. The land and building is assessed at \$2.3 million.

"I was flabbergasted," Wiesley said. The board didn't accept the offer.

Association officials said Schick underwent two background checks before he was hired, but those checks did not uncover a well-publicized lawsuit Schick initiated in 1997.

Schick had sued Drake University, alleging that while he was a student there his mental-health counselor convinced him that he had been raised by a satanic cult. The counselor allegedly prescribed a series of treatment regimens that included sex, a visit to a psychic and a series of ritual chants. The lawsuit was settled out of court.

Schick said Saturday he has committed no wrongdoing but the association cut off his access to records that would prove his innocence.

Board didn't approve major salary increase

Maxine Kilcrease worked for the Heartland Area Education Agency before she became the Iowa School Board Association's executive director last July.

The association agreed to pay her \$210,000. But in September, Kilcrease told Hill, then the board president, that her written contract and her pay didn't reflect an oral agreement that the association would compensate her for payroll taxes and other deductions.

To address that problem, she and Hill revised her written contract so it obligated the association to pay for all payroll taxes, 401(k), flex and other administrative fees. The new contract was signed without the knowledge or consent of the full board, Hill and Kilcrease said Saturday.

Last week, one day after The Des Moines Register asked for a list of association officials and their salaries, Kilcrease reimbursed the association for \$59,000 in pay.

Kilcrease said Saturday that when her salary increase took effect in early October, she immediately realized her pay had been increased too much to offset the payroll deductions.

"It was way too much," she said Saturday. "I just about had a stroke."

Kilcrease told the Register that over the next five months, she tried in vain to get Schick to reduce her pay - a charge that Schick denies.

"If that was true, she had the authority to go above or around me and get her pay corrected," he said. "She was the executive director."

Hill said Friday that he knew nothing of any issues involving Kilcrease's pay or contract.

"I don't know anything about that," he said. "There was never any discussion between Maxine and I about a pay increase, because I never knew it was increased."

But on Saturday, after association officials sent him records documenting his involvement in the matter, Hill said he recalled that Kilcrease had complained about her pay and the two of them signed a new contract to address the problem. He said Kilcrease told him he had the authority to revise the contract without the involvement of the full board. Kilcrease said it was the other way around - that it was Hill who said the matter didn't need to go before the full board.

Kilcrease said she now feels that Schick's refusal to change her pay might have been part of a "setup." She said she never told Hill or the full board that she was collecting too much pay because she didn't want to bother them. Because the association is a nonprofit corporation, not a unit of government, its records are unavailable under the Iowa Open Records Law. However, the organization has given the Register access to some financial reports. The newspaper's request for a list of employee salaries will be considered by the association's board of directors next week.

Financial deals for spinoff groups

Association records point to a variety of reasons the organization is in financial trouble.

For years, the nonprofit association has been adding to the services it provides to Iowa schools, and many of those efforts have been spun off into separate business ventures with their own staff and governing boards. The association spent millions of dollars launching and, in some cases, propping up those endeavors.

For example:

- The association created the National School Foundation Association to help schools across the country create their own revenue-generating foundations. The NSFA was a small operation, but it struggled financially. In 2008, the Iowa association forgave a \$491,109 loan to the NSFA.
- The association also created IJUMP, a program that helps Iowa schools get a better price on fuel. At some point, IJUMP mistakenly underbilled the schools almost \$800,000 for the fuel it was providing. Rather than bill the schools the correct amount, IJUMP and the association absorbed the hit.
- The association also funneled millions of dollars into a wholly owned subsidiary called Local Government Services, a company that ran some of the association's business ventures. That for-profit corporation not only received direct cash infusions from the Iowa Association of School Boards, it also paid the salary of Jon Muller, the association's then-chief

financial officer. Muller was the president of Local Government Services. His association salary was \$184,582 in 2008, according to IRS records.

Muller says there was nothing improper about any of the transactions, but his successor, Schick, told board members the association had given \$5 million to Local Government Services that wasn't repaid or properly documented as a loan.

The association's auditors say they are still looking into those cash transfers and haven't determined whether they were improperly handled.

Association officials say they're not sure whether Muller's dual roles - or the dual roles played by board members who serve both the association and its affiliates - have created conflicts of interest, but that is also being investigated. Delagardelle, the deputy director, says the association may have strayed too far from its core mission of helping Iowa school boards conduct their business. By creating business enterprises with their own sources of revenue, the organization grew in size to the point where, financially, it is now one of the largest school board associations in America.

Some of the business ventures the association created to help schools better manage their own finances now appear to have been mismanaged themselves. Compounding the problem is the fact that in recent years the association's auditors allegedly failed to put in writing all of their concerns with the organization's finances.

Delagardelle said the auditors recently explained that they had identified about a dozen concerns and relayed them verbally to top staffers who, apparently, didn't share the information with the board or others.

"That was a surprise to all of us," she said.

She said the association is now implementing a series of policy changes designed to improve oversight and accountability. There are new policies on credit card use, travel expenses and the approval of business plans. There's now a certified public accountant on the board, and the entire board is receiving training on how to read complex financial reports.

Internal whistle-blower complaints - there have been at least four in recent months - are going to be investigated by an independent firm.

There is also a new policy on nepotism, which is a direct response to concerns that many former IASB officials are related. At least six current or former employees are closely related to others within the association, although the organization now has only 38 employees.

For now, though, the association's first order of business is determining the full scope of the financial crisis.

On Saturday, Kilcrease said she had no idea the association had such serious problems when she took over as executive director last summer.

"It feels like I've walked into a tsunami," she said.

Wiesley says that while the association's ability to continue serving Iowa school boards is in jeopardy, he's optimistic.

"It's going to be touch and go for a few months," he said. "But we'll survive and keep going."

What the executive director's contract says

Maxine Kilcrease's original three-year contract to serve as the executive director of the Iowa Association of School Boards includes these provisions:

- An annual salary of \$210,000.
- A 5 percent retirement-plan contribution to a 401(k) plan.
- "Premium payments" for family medical and hospital insurance.
- Four weeks of paid vacation each year, plus 10 paid holidays, two personal-leave days and 15 days of sick leave.
- Unlimited reimbursement for travel and entertainment expenses related to IASB business.
- Private club dues and expenses at the Des Moines Club.
- Rotary Club dues and expenses.
- If Kilcrease is terminated for virtually any reason other than moral turpitude, illegal drug use or chronic drunkenness, she is entitled to collect the balance of the three-year contract's compensation.

Sometime after November 2009, the contract was changed to stipulate that the association would pay "all payroll taxes, 401(k), flex and other administrative fees."

Although that change resulted in a significant increase in pay for Kilcrease, the new contract was not approved by the full board. The document itself was left undated, with no mention of it being a revised version of a previous agreement.

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The association collects annual dues, ranging from \$726 to \$10,366, from all of Iowa's 361 public school districts. It spends at least \$2.4 million worth of government grants each year, and it collects millions more from conferences, consulting and cash-management programs funded by schools. Its mission is to improve public education through training and research that help Iowa's locally elected school boards.

In recent years, though, the association has expanded to include a number of business ventures that serve schools in as many as 40 states. Some of those business ventures don't relate directly to the work of school boards, and some are tied to the association's current financial crisis.

Controversies swirl around past CFO

Some of the allegations of wrongdoing center on Kevin Schick, who served as the association's chief financial officer from last summer through early January.

Schick allegedly told board members last year that eBay officials had committed to buying one of the association's business ventures, PaySchools, a national business that manages financial accounts. When the deal failed to materialize, Schick told the board that eBay executives had flown in to close the deal, but changed their minds in the plane after hearing that former association officials were involved in some type of litigation.

In reality, the deal was never seriously considered and there were no such lawsuits, association officials say. "It was all fabricated," said Mary Delagardelle, the association's deputy executive director.

Schick was fired in January after officials concluded he had lied to the staff and the board about the eBay deal. Association officials say they then found evidence that he had used an Iowa School Board Association credit card to buy airline tickets for a vacation trip to Bora Bora, a tropical island in the South Pacific.

At least some of that \$1,100 expense appears to have been repaid, association officials said.

Board members say Schick once told them he owned an island off the coast of Florida and showed them a photo of it during a board meeting. There are conflicting accounts as to where the idea originated, but late last year someone at the association suggested the organization's top executives hold a retreat on the island, with Schick personally flying them there.

The island retreat was placed on staff members' electronic calendars, but association officials say that was done in jest and no one seriously considered traveling there.

Board records indicate that before he was fired, Schick offered to personally loan the association \$2 million so it could pay for the remodeling of, and the mortgage on, the association's Grand Avenue headquarters in Des Moines. The land and building is assessed at \$2.3 million.

"I was flabbergasted," Wiesley said. The board didn't accept the offer.

Association officials said Schick underwent two background checks before he was hired, but those checks did not uncover a well-publicized lawsuit Schick initiated in 1997.

Schick had sued Drake University, alleging that while he was a student there his mental-health counselor convinced him that he had been raised by a satanic cult. The counselor allegedly prescribed a series of treatment regimens that included sex, a visit to a psychic and a series of ritual chants. The lawsuit was settled out of court.

Schick said Saturday he has committed no wrongdoing but the association cut off his access to records that would prove his innocence.

Board didn't approve major salary increase

Maxine Kilcrease worked for the Heartland Area Education Agency before she became the Iowa School Board Association's executive director last July.

The association agreed to pay her \$210,000. But in September, Kilcrease told Hill, then the board president, that her written contract and her pay didn't reflect an oral agreement that the association would compensate her for payroll taxes and other deductions.

To address that problem, she and Hill revised her written contract so it obligated the association to pay for all payroll taxes, 401(k), flex and other administrative fees. The new contract was signed without the knowledge or consent of the full board, Hill and Kilcrease said Saturday.

Last week, one day after The Des Moines Register asked for a list of association officials and their salaries, Kilcrease reimbursed the association for \$59,000 in pay.

Kilcrease said Saturday that when her salary increase took effect in early October, she immediately realized her pay had been increased too much to offset the payroll deductions.

"It was way too much," she said Saturday. "I just about had a stroke."

Kilcrease told the Register that over the next five months, she tried in vain to get Schick to reduce her pay - a charge that Schick denies.

"If that was true, she had the authority to go above or around me and get her pay corrected," he said. "She was the executive director."

Hill said Friday that he knew nothing of any issues involving Kilcrease's pay or contract.

"I don't know anything about that," he said. "There was never any discussion between Maxine and I about a pay increase, because I never knew it was increased."

But on Saturday, after association officials sent him records documenting his involvement in the matter, Hill said he recalled that Kilcrease had complained about her pay and the two of them signed a new contract to address the problem. He said Kilcrease told him he had the authority to revise the contract without the involvement of the full board. Kilcrease said it was the other way around - that it was Hill who said the matter didn't need to go before the full board.

Kilcrease said she now feels that Schick's refusal to change her pay might have been part of a "setup." She said she never told Hill or the full board that she was collecting too much pay because she didn't want to bother them. Because the association is a nonprofit corporation, not a unit of government, its records are unavailable under the Iowa Open Records Law. However, the organization has given the Register access to some financial reports. The newspaper's request for a list of employee salaries will be considered by the association's board of directors next week.

Financial deals for spinoff groups

Association records point to a variety of reasons the organization is in financial trouble.

For years, the nonprofit association has been adding to the services it provides to Iowa schools, and many of those efforts have been spun off into separate business ventures with their own staff and governing boards. The association spent millions of dollars launching and, in some cases, propping up those endeavors.

For example:

- The association created the National School Foundation Association to help schools across the country create their own revenue-generating foundations. The NSFA was a small operation, but it struggled financially. In 2008, the Iowa association forgave a \$491,109 loan to the NSFA.
- The association also created IJUMP, a program that helps Iowa schools get a better price on fuel. At some point, IJUMP mistakenly underbilled the schools almost \$800,000 for the fuel it was providing. Rather than bill the schools the correct amount, IJUMP and the association absorbed the hit.
- The association also funneled millions of dollars into a wholly owned subsidiary called Local Government Services, a company that ran some of the association's business ventures. That for-profit corporation not only received direct cash infusions from the Iowa Association of School Boards, it also paid the salary of Jon Muller, the association's then-chief

financial officer. Muller was the president of Local Government Services. His association salary was \$184,582 in 2008, according to IRS records.

Muller says there was nothing improper about any of the transactions, but his successor, Schick, told board members the association had given \$5 million to Local Government Services that wasn't repaid or properly documented as a loan.

The association's auditors say they are still looking into those cash transfers and haven't determined whether they were improperly handled.

Association officials say they're not sure whether Muller's dual roles - or the dual roles played by board members who serve both the association and its affiliates - have created conflicts of interest, but that is also being investigated. Delagardelle, the deputy director, says the association may have strayed too far from its core mission of helping Iowa school boards conduct their business. By creating business enterprises with their own sources of revenue, the organization grew in size to the point where, financially, it is now one of the largest school board associations in America.

Some of the business ventures the association created to help schools better manage their own finances now appear to have been mismanaged themselves. Compounding the problem is the fact that in recent years the association's auditors allegedly failed to put in writing all of their concerns with the organization's finances.

Delagardelle said the auditors recently explained that they had identified about a dozen concerns and relayed them verbally to top staffers who, apparently, didn't share the information with the board or others.

"That was a surprise to all of us," she said.

She said the association is now implementing a series of policy changes designed to improve oversight and accountability. There are new policies on credit card use, travel expenses and the approval of business plans. There's now a certified public accountant on the board, and the entire board is receiving training on how to read complex financial reports.

Internal whistle-blower complaints - there have been at least four in recent months - are going to be investigated by an independent firm.

There is also a new policy on nepotism, which is a direct response to concerns that many former IASB officials are related. At least six current or former employees are closely related to others within the association, although the organization now has only 38 employees.

For now, though, the association's first order of business is determining the full scope of the financial crisis.

On Saturday, Kilcrease said she had no idea the association had such serious problems when she took over as executive director last summer.

"It feels like I've walked into a tsunami," she said.

Wlesley says that while the association's ability to continue serving Iowa school boards is in jeopardy, he's optimistic.

"It's going to be touch and go for a few months," he said. "But we'll survive and keep going."

What the executive director's contract says

Maxine Kilcrease's original three-year contract to serve as the executive director of the Iowa Association of School Boards includes these provisions:

- An annual salary of \$210,000.
- A 5 percent retirement-plan contribution to a 401(k) plan.
- "Premium payments" for family medical and hospital insurance.
- Four weeks of paid vacation each year, plus 10 paid holidays, two personal-leave days and 15 days of sick leave.
- Unlimited reimbursement for travel and entertainment expenses related to IASB business.
- Private club dues and expenses at the Des Moines Club.
- Rotary Club dues and expenses.
- If Kilcrease is terminated for virtually any reason other than moral turpitude, illegal drug use or chronic drunkenness, she is entitled to collect the balance of the three-year contract's compensation.

Sometime after November 2009, the contract was changed to stipulate that the association would pay "all payroll taxes, 401(k), flex and other administrative fees."

Although that change resulted in a significant increase in pay for Kilcrease, the new contract was not approved by the full board. The document itself was left undated, with no mention of it being a revised version of a previous agreement.

Search

From: Jacobs, Jennifer <jejacobs@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 5:03 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: RE: Dues

thanks, megan!

-----Original Message-----

From: Forgrave, Megan [mailto:mforgrave@ia-sb.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 4:01 PM
To: Kauffman, Clark
Cc: Jacobs, Jennifer
Subject: RE: Dues

Also, we have now heard Monday for Oversight, so that's correct.

Megan

On 3/10/10 3:33 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

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- Taxpayer money was possibly used to fund a former executive director's vacation to Bora Bora. (This was not the executive director's... this was Kevin Schick, the former consultant who was serving as CFO. He resigned in the midst of an internal whistleblower investigation regarding improper credit card use that included this travel charge.) -Staffers intentionally misled board members about a potential multi-million dollar business deal (Again, I believe this was not staffers plural, but the former CFO, Kevin Schick.)
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Many thanks - again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on any issues that come up.

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p.s. Clark, just saw this message come in. We are on a fiscal year. Dues notices go out in May and are paid by July 1.
Thanks.

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Wed 3/10/2010 3:27 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: Dooley, Sheena
Subject: Dues

Megan,

Can you tell me when the districts pay their dues to IASB?
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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 4:04 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: Dues

Thank you,

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 3:58 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Dues

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We'll get it corrected.

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Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 3:49 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: Dues

Clark-

If you're planning anything on dues, I will tell you that the board has tabled the discussion on next year's dues until tomorrow... we will have a spreadsheet that shows how much districts paid in dues last year and how much their Safety Group Insurance Dividend was... that is one of the most significant financial benefits for our members and an incredibly valuable service we provide through a partnership that helps school districts, as a group, get better rates and significantly better coverage than they could otherwise get, and they also get significant dividends back at the end of the year - for many districts this makes their dues more than worth the investment, and in fact helps stretch the tax dollars. The insurance company is working on a three-year plan to gradually lower premiums and ensure they are at the proper levels, but bottom line is that the program in fact saves districts significant tax dollars.

If there's anything else you are working on for tomorrow that we can help address, please let me know. Thanks.

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Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 3:34 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'; jejacobs@dmreg.com
Cc: 'Dooley, Sheena'
Subject: RE: Dues

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 3:26 PM
To: Gannon, Mary
Subject: russ's quote

This is what I sent to Clark Kauffman.

"When the subject of our finances came up Monday with legislators, IASB asked for some time to hear the board report from our auditors and to pull information together. IASB appreciates the Legislature giving us a week, and we look forward to answering their questions and being as transparent as possible. IASB has been very proactive regarding these issues, and following the completion of the regular 2009 audit, we have also requested an audit from State Auditor David Vaught, who has agreed to complete it. IASB is committed to our first priority, which is our members and the education of all students." - Russ Wiesley, IASB board president and a Waukee school board member.

Search

From: Ricci, Patrick
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 3:19 PM
To: Giles, Traci
Subject: FW: Pay Schools Inquiry from MTSBA

Traci, Was getting ready to respond and realized that MTSBA is also questioning the reliability of the royalty payments sent to MTSBA. Are we sending a report to each organization demonstrating how we arrived at each royalty check that is sent or are we just sending the check. If we are just sending the check is there any way that you can send me the royalty check amount sent to Montana (from the actual check, not the report) and I will go through the royalty reports and make sure that all the numbers add up and then forward them the royalty report information for their state.

Give me a call if I'm making this too complicated and we need to discuss. Thanks Pat

From: Lance Melton [mailto:lmelton@mtsba.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 1:29 PM
To: Ricci, Patrick
Subject: Pay Schools Inquiry from MTSBA

From: Lance Melton
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 7:00 AM
To: pricci@payschools.com
Cc: rwiesley@mchsi.com; mkilcrease@ia-sb.org; Debra Silk; MTSBA Directors
Subject: Problems at Iowa Association of School Boards

Dear Mr. Ricci (copied to Maxine Kilcrease, IASB Executive Director and Russ Wiesley, IASB President):

First, let me express my condolences for the financial problems facing the Iowa Association of School Boards. We have long admired your work on the role of the school board in student achievement and in other areas and it is hard to see a fellow state school boards association going through problems and related media scrutiny, some of which is likely inaccurate and/or otherwise unfair as most media coverage is at one time or another.

I read a fairly troubling story in the Des Moines Register about financial and other problems facing IASB and that story also indicates the possibly of related problems at Pay Schools. I have pasted that article below in case you have not seen it (which is doubtful, I realize). In any case, as you know from our general counsel, Debra Silk's previous inquiries, we have made a previous inquiry regarding the accuracy of the royalty payments to MTSBA by Pay Schools. Specifically, we have a couple of relatively large school districts who have advised our marketing partner, the Montana Association of School Business Officials, that they are using Pay Schools for transactions but there have been virtually no royalty payments to MTSBA. To date we have chalked that up to the program taking some time to gather steam, and we accepted your previous assurance that the royalty payments were accurate, but in light of the article below we would like to have your personal assurance of the following:

1. That Pay Schools remains a viable company, and that none of what is discussed in the article below affects the financial solvency or other ability of Pay Schools to deliver on its contractual promises to MTSBA and its members;
2. That Pay Schools has paid MTSBA members all payments due from transactions in those school districts using Pay Schools in Montana;
3. That Pay Schools has paid MTSBA all royalties to which it is due under our contract based on transactions referenced in 3 above; and
4. A complete list of the school districts in Montana using Pay Schools

We would also like to have the auditors who have been retained by IASB to include in their audit an analysis of the Montana school district transactions using PaySchools to ensure that our members have received all payments due and to ensure that MTSBA has received the royalty income to which it is entitled under the agreement we have with PaySchools.

Please confirm receipt of this email and please respond to my requests above.

Sincerely,

Lance L. Melton
Executive Director
Montana School Boards Association
(406) 442-2180
(406) 442-2194 (Fax)
(406) 439-2180 (Cell)

School board group faces fraud probe, money crisis

By CLARK KAUFFMAN • ckkauffman@dmreg.com • © 2010, Des Moines Register and Tribune Co. • March 7, 2010
A group funded with taxpayer money is in the midst of a financial crisis and has asked forensic auditors to look for evidence of fraud and criminal activity at the organization.

Two teams of auditors are going through records of the Iowa Association of School Boards. One of them is looking into allegations that:

- Public money was used for a former executive's vacation to Bora Bora.
- Staffers not only kept board members in the dark about financial problems but actively misled them about a multimillion-dollar business deal.
- A for-profit company run by an association executive received \$5 million from the organization.

In addition, the group's executive director has acknowledged collecting \$59,000 in extra pay over the past eight months, but says she might have been "set up" by the association's chief financial officer. There are also allegations of conflicts of interest, nepotism, lax financial controls and inadequate board oversight.

Auditors and association officials say they don't yet know the full scope of the agency's problems or whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead. They said they hope to know more when the association's governing board meets this week.

"It makes me feel totally nauseated," said association board president Russ Wiesley, a Waukee school board member. "It's gut-wrenching."

Board member Jack Hill, who represents the North Scott Community School District, said it's not clear what went wrong.

"Apparently we're out of money and we've got to figure out how we got there," said Hill, who still serves on the board's executive committee.

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In reality, the deal was never seriously considered and there were no such lawsuits, association officials say. "It was all fabricated," said Mary Delagardelle, the association's deputy executive director.

Schick was fired in January after officials concluded he had lied to the staff and the board about the eBay deal. Association officials say they then found evidence that he had used an Iowa School Board Association credit card to buy airline tickets for a vacation trip to Bora Bora, a tropical island in the South Pacific.

At least some of that \$1,100 expense appears to have been repaid, association officials said.

Board members say Schick once told them he owned an island off the coast of Florida and showed them a photo of it during a board meeting. There are conflicting accounts as to where the idea originated, but late last year someone at the association suggested the organization's top executives hold a retreat on the island, with Schick personally flying them there.

The island retreat was placed on staff members' electronic calendars, but association officials say that was done in jest and no one seriously considered traveling there.

Board records indicate that before he was fired, Schick offered to personally loan the association \$2 million so it could pay for the remodeling of, and the mortgage on, the association's Grand Avenue headquarters in Des Moines. The land and building is assessed at \$2.3 million.

"I was flabbergasted," Wiesley said. The board didn't accept the offer.

Association officials said Schick underwent two background checks before he was hired, but those checks did not uncover a well-publicized lawsuit Schick initiated in 1997.

Schick had sued Drake University, alleging that while he was a student there his mental-health counselor convinced him that he had been raised by a satanic cult. The counselor allegedly prescribed a series of treatment regimens that included sex, a visit to a psychic and a series of ritual chants. The lawsuit was settled out of court.

Schick said Saturday he has committed no wrongdoing but the association cut off his access to records that would prove his innocence.

Board didn't approve major salary increase

Maxine Kilcrease worked for the Heartland Area Education Agency before she became the Iowa School Board Association's executive director last July.

The association agreed to pay her \$210,000. But in September, Kilcrease told Hill, then the board president, that her written contract and her pay didn't reflect an oral agreement that the association would compensate her for payroll taxes and other deductions.

To address that problem, she and Hill revised her written contract so it obligated the association to pay for all payroll taxes, 401(k), flex and other administrative fees. The new contract was signed without the knowledge or consent of the full board, Hill and Kilcrease said Saturday.

Last week, one day after The Des Moines Register asked for a list of association officials and their salaries, Kilcrease reimbursed the association for \$59,000 in pay.

Kilcrease said Saturday that when her salary increase took effect in early October, she immediately realized her pay had been increased too much to offset the payroll deductions.

"It was way too much," she said Saturday. "I just about had a stroke."

Kilcrease told the Register that over the next five months, she tried in vain to get Schick to reduce her pay - a charge that Schick denies.

"If that was true, she had the authority to go above or around me and get her pay corrected," he said. "She was the executive director."

Hill said Friday that he knew nothing of any issues involving Kilcrease's pay or contract.

"I don't know anything about that," he said. "There was never any discussion between Maxine and I about a pay increase, because I never knew it was increased."

But on Saturday, after association officials sent him records documenting his involvement in the matter, Hill said he recalled that Kilcrease had complained about her pay and the two of them signed a new contract to address the problem. He said Kilcrease told him he had the authority to revise the contract without the involvement of the full board. Kilcrease said it was the other way around - that it was Hill who said the matter didn't need to go before the full board.

Kilcrease said she now feels that Schick's refusal to change her pay might have been part of a "setup." She said she never told Hill or the full board that she was collecting too much pay because she didn't want to bother them. Because the association is a nonprofit corporation, not a unit of government, its records are unavailable under the Iowa Open Records Law. However, the organization has given the Register access to some financial reports. The newspaper's request for a list of employee salaries will be considered by the association's board of directors next week.

Financial deals for spinoff groups

Association records point to a variety of reasons the organization is in financial trouble.

For years, the nonprofit association has been adding to the services it provides to Iowa schools, and many of those efforts have been spun off into separate business ventures with their own staff and governing boards. The association spent millions of dollars launching and, in some cases, propping up those endeavors.

For example:

- The association created the National School Foundation Association to help schools across the country create their own revenue-generating foundations. The NSFA was a small operation, but it struggled financially. In 2008, the Iowa association forgave a \$491,109 loan to the NSFA.
- The association also created IJUMP, a program that helps Iowa schools get a better price on fuel. At some point, IJUMP mistakenly underbilled the schools almost \$800,000 for the fuel it was providing. Rather than bill the schools the correct amount, IJUMP and the association absorbed the hit.
- The association also funneled millions of dollars into a wholly owned subsidiary called Local Government Services, a company that ran some of the association's business ventures. That for-profit corporation not only received direct cash infusions from the Iowa Association of School Boards, it also paid the salary of Jon Muller, the association's then-chief financial officer. Muller was the president of Local Government Services. His association salary was \$184,582 in 2008, according to IRS records. Muller says there was nothing improper about any of the transactions, but his successor, Schick, told board members the association had given \$5 million to Local Government Services that wasn't repaid or properly documented as a loan.

The association's auditors say they are still looking into those cash transfers and haven't determined whether they were improperly handled.

Association officials say they're not sure whether Muller's dual roles - or the dual roles played by board members who serve both the association and its affiliates - have created conflicts of interest, but that is also being investigated. Delagardelle, the deputy director, says the association may have strayed too far from its core mission of helping Iowa school boards conduct their business. By creating business enterprises with their own sources of revenue, the organization grew in size to the point where, financially, it is now one of the largest school board associations in America.

Some of the business ventures the association created to help schools better manage their own finances now appear to have been mismanaged themselves. Compounding the problem is the fact that in recent years the association's auditors allegedly failed to put in writing all of their concerns with the organization's finances.

Delagardelle said the auditors recently explained that they had identified about a dozen concerns and relayed them verbally to top staffers who, apparently, didn't share the information with the board or others.

"That was a surprise to all of us," she said.

She said the association is now implementing a series of policy changes designed to improve oversight and accountability. There are new policies on credit card use, travel expenses and the approval of business plans. There's now a certified public accountant on the board, and the entire board is receiving training on how to read complex financial reports.

Internal whistle-blower complaints - there have been at least four in recent months - are going to be investigated by an independent firm.

There is also a new policy on nepotism, which is a direct response to concerns that many former IASB officials are related. At least six current or former employees are closely related to others within the association, although the organization now has only 38 employees.

For now, though, the association's first order of business is determining the full scope of the financial crisis. On Saturday, Kilcrease said she had no idea the association had such serious problems when she took over as executive director last summer.

"It feels like I've walked into a tsunami," she said.

Wiesley says that while the association's ability to continue serving Iowa school boards is in jeopardy, he's optimistic.

"It's going to be touch and go for a few months," he said. "But we'll survive and keep going."

What the executive director's contract says

Maxine Kilcrease's original three-year contract to serve as the executive director of the Iowa Association of School Boards includes these provisions:

- An annual salary of \$210,000.
- A 5 percent retirement-plan contribution to a 401(k) plan.
- "Premium payments" for family medical and hospital insurance.
- Four weeks of paid vacation each year, plus 10 paid holidays, two personal-leave days and 15 days of sick leave.
- Unlimited reimbursement for travel and entertainment expenses related to IASB business.
- Private club dues and expenses at the Des Moines Club.
- Rotary Club dues and expenses.
- If Kilcrease is terminated for virtually any reason other than moral turpitude, illegal drug use or chronic drunkenness, she is entitled to collect the balance of the three-year contract's compensation.

Sometime after November 2009, the contract was changed to stipulate that the association would pay "all payroll taxes, 401(k), flex and other administrative fees."

Although that change resulted in a significant increase in pay for Kilcrease, the new contract was not approved by the full board. The document itself was left undated, with no mention of it being a revised version of a previous agreement.

From: Ricci, Patrick [mailto:pricci@ia-sb.org]

Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 12:26 PM

To: Lance Melton

Subject: contact info

Patrick Ricci
National Marketing Director
Iowa Association of School Boards

Office (281) 545-1957
Cell (281) 705-1038

Search

From: Ricci, Patrick
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 3:19 PM
To: Giles, Traci
Subject: FW: Pay Schools Inquiry from MTSBA

Traci, Was getting ready to respond and realized that MTSBA is also questioning the reliability of the royalty payments sent to MTSBA. Are we sending a report to each organization demonstrating how we arrived at each royalty check that is sent or are we just sending the check. If we are just sending the check is there any way that you can send me the royalty check amount sent to Montana (from the actual check, not the report) and I will go through the royalty reports and make sure that all the numbers add up and then forward them the royalty report information for their state.

Give me a call if I'm making this too complicated and we need to discuss. Thanks Pat

From: Lance Melton [mailto:lmelton@mtsba.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 1:29 PM
To: Ricci, Patrick
Subject: Pay Schools Inquiry from MTSBA

From: Lance Melton
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 7:00 AM
To: pricci@payschools.com
Cc: rwiesley@mchsi.com; mkilcrease@ia-sb.org; Debra Silk; MTSBA Directors
Subject: Problems at Iowa Association of School Boards

Dear Mr. Ricci (copied to Maxine Kilcrease, IASB Executive Director and Russ Wiesley, IASB President):

First, let me express my condolences for the financial problems facing the Iowa Association of School Boards. We have long admired your work on the role of the school board in student achievement and in other areas and it is hard to see a fellow state school boards association going through problems and related media scrutiny, some of which is likely inaccurate and/or otherwise unfair as most media coverage is at one time or another.

I read a fairly troubling story in the Des Moines Register about financial and other problems facing IASB and that story also indicates the possibly of related problems at Pay Schools. I have pasted that article below in case you have not seen it (which is doubtful, I realize). In any case, as you know from our general counsel, Debra Silk's previous inquiries, we have made a previous inquiry regarding the accuracy of the royalty payments to MTSBA by Pay Schools. Specifically, we have a couple of relatively large school districts who have advised our marketing partner, the Montana Association of School Business Officials, that they are using Pay Schools for transactions but there have been virtually no royalty payments to MTSBA. To date we have chalked that up to the program taking some time to gather steam, and we accepted your previous assurance that the royalty payments were accurate, but in light of the article below we would like to have your personal assurance of the following:

1. That Pay Schools remains a viable company, and that none of what is discussed in the article below affects the financial solvency or other ability of Pay Schools to deliver on its contractual promises to MTSBA and its members;
2. That Pay Schools has paid MTSBA members all payments due from transactions in those school districts using Pay Schools in Montana;
3. That Pay Schools has paid MTSBA all royalties to which it is due under our contract based on transactions referenced in 3 above; and
4. A complete list of the school districts in Montana using Pay Schools

We would also like to have the auditors who have been retained by IASB to include in their audit an analysis of the Montana school district transactions using PaySchools to ensure that our members have received all payments due and to ensure that MTSBA has received the royalty income to which it is entitled under the agreement we have with PaySchools.

Please confirm receipt of this email and please respond to my requests above.

Sincerely,

Lance L. Melton
Executive Director
Montana School Boards Association
(406) 442-2180
(406) 442-2194 (Fax)
(406) 439-2180 (Cell)

School board group faces fraud probe, money crisis

By CLARK KAUFFMAN • ckkauffman@dmreg.com • © 2010, Des Moines Register and Tribune Co. • March 7, 2010
A group funded with taxpayer money is in the midst of a financial crisis and has asked forensic auditors to look for evidence of fraud and criminal activity at the organization.

Two teams of auditors are going through records of the Iowa Association of School Boards. One of them is looking into allegations that:

- Public money was used for a former executive's vacation to Bora Bora.
- Staffers not only kept board members in the dark about financial problems but actively misled them about a multimillion-dollar business deal.
- A for-profit company run by an association executive received \$5 million from the organization.

In addition, the group's executive director has acknowledged collecting \$59,000 in extra pay over the past eight months, but says she might have been "set up" by the association's chief financial officer. There are also allegations of conflicts of interest, nepotism, lax financial controls and inadequate board oversight.

Auditors and association officials say they don't yet know the full scope of the agency's problems or whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead. They said they hope to know more when the association's governing board meets this week.

"It makes me feel totally nauseated," said association board president Russ Wiesley, a Waukee school board member. "It's gut-wrenching."

Board member Jack Hill, who represents the North Scott Community School District, said it's not clear what went wrong.

"Apparently we're out of money and we've got to figure out how we got there," said Hill, who still serves on the board's executive committee.

The association collects annual dues, ranging from \$726 to \$10,366, from all of Iowa's 361 public school districts. It spends at least \$2.4 million worth of government grants each year, and it collects millions more from conferences, consulting and cash-management programs funded by schools. Its mission is to improve public education through training and research that help Iowa's locally elected school boards.

In recent years, though, the association has expanded to include a number of business ventures that serve schools in as many as 40 states. Some of those business ventures don't relate directly to the work of school boards, and some are tied to the association's current financial crisis.

Controversies swirl around past CFO

Some of the allegations of wrongdoing center on Kevin Schick, who served as the association's chief financial officer from last summer through early January.

Schick allegedly told board members last year that eBay officials had committed to buying one of the association's business ventures, PaySchools, a national business that manages financial accounts. When the deal failed to materialize, Schick told the board that eBay executives had flown in to close the deal, but changed their minds in the plane after hearing that former association officials were involved in some type of litigation.

In reality, the deal was never seriously considered and there were no such lawsuits, association officials say. "It was all fabricated," said Mary Delagardelle, the association's deputy executive director.

Schick was fired in January after officials concluded he had lied to the staff and the board about the eBay deal. Association officials say they then found evidence that he had used an Iowa School Board Association credit card to buy airline tickets for a vacation trip to Bora Bora, a tropical island in the South Pacific.

At least some of that \$1,100 expense appears to have been repaid, association officials said. Board members say Schick once told them he owned an island off the coast of Florida and showed them a photo of it during a board meeting. There are conflicting accounts as to where the idea originated, but late last year someone at the association suggested the organization's top executives hold a retreat on the island, with Schick personally flying them there.

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Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 12:26 PM

To: Lance Melton

Subject: contact info

Patrick Ricci
National Marketing Director
Iowa Association of School Boards

Office (281) 545-1957
Cell (281) 705-1038

Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 1:19 PM
To: 'Jacobs, Jennifer'
Subject: RE: Oversight cte - IASB quote

Thanks, Jen :)

From: Jacobs, Jennifer [mailto:jejacobs@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 1:20 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: Kauffman, Clark
Subject: RE: Oversight cte - IASB quote

Thanks, Megan, I'll add this online immediately

From: Forgrave, Megan [mailto:mforgrave@ia-sb.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 1:13 PM
To: Jacobs, Jennifer
Subject: Oversight cte - IASB quote

Jen, I've sent this to Clark, but if it's helpful for you to include in your blog:

"When the subject of our finances came up Monday with legislators, IASB asked for some time to hear the board report from our auditors and to pull information together. IASB appreciates the Legislature giving us a week, and we look forward to answering their questions and being as transparent as possible. IASB has been very proactive regarding these issues, and following the completion of the regular 2009 audit, we have also requested an audit from State Auditor David Vaudt, who has agreed to complete it. IASB is committed to our first priority, which is our members and the education of all students." - Russ Wiesley, IASB board president and a Waukee school board member.

Megan (Hawkins) Forgrave
Communications Director
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6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312-1417
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1-800-795-4272
Direct Line: (515) 247-7036
Cell: (515) 229-1705
Fax: (515) 247-4680
www.ia-sb.org

Search

From: Jacobs, Jennifer <jejacobs@desmoine.gannett.com>
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To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: Kauffman, Clark
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Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 1:14 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: Stuff

Clark-
Please correct the spelling of David Vaudt's name - my bad. Thanks.

Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark (mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com)
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 11:57 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Stuff

Megan,

I understand IASB sent its members a letter last last week or early this week about the financial problems. We can get the letter(s) from the districts via the Open Records Law, but is it something IASB could provide?

Also, I understand some the Government Oversight Committee may hold hearings on all this. Is that something IASB would like to comment on?

And, finally, of course, I am interested in today's board meeting. If there is anything you or Russ can say, just let me know...

Thanks.

Clark

Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 1:13 PM
To: jejacobs@dmreg.com
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Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 12:33 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: Stuff
Attachments: March5MessageField.doc

Hi Clark-

Attached is the memo I assume you are referring to from last week... Holler if you think someone was referring to something else - we have mentioned our finances several times to folks over the past several months, just letting them know we are working on getting a handle on things here.

There will be some more information available this afternoon about some board action, and I will include you on that. Also, just a reminder that the board meets both this afternoon and tomorrow morning, so more detailed information about all results from the board meeting will probably not be available until tomorrow, but we will be happy to connect with you then.

On the oversight committee, Russ has supplied a quote for you below:

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Thanks Clark,
Megan

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Also, I understand some the Government Oversight Committee may hold hearings on all this. Is that something IASB would like to comment on?

And, finally, of course, I am interested in today's board meeting. If there is anything you or Russ can say, just let me know...

Thanks.

Clark

Search

From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 11:57 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Stuff

Megan,

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Thanks.

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Search

From: Ricci, Patrick
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 11:02 AM
To: 'Lance Melton'
Subject: RE: Problems at Iowa Association of School Boards

Lance, I have the email problem fixed. I will respond to this email today and address questions I can answer and advise how we might proceed if there are questions I cannot answer at this time. Thanks Pat

From: Lance Melton [mailto:lmelton@mtsba.org]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 8:00 AM
To: Ricci, Patrick
Cc: Wiesley, Russ; Kilcrease, Maxine; Debra Silk; MTSBA Directors
Subject: Problems at Iowa Association of School Boards

Dear Mr. Ricci (copied to Maxine Kilcrease, IASB Executive Director and Russ Wiesley, IASB President):

First, let me express my condolences for the financial problems facing the Iowa Association of School Boards. We have long admired your work on the role of the school board in student achievement and in other areas and it is hard to see a fellow state school boards association going through problems and related media scrutiny, some of which is likely inaccurate and/or otherwise unfair as most media coverage is at one time or another.

I read a fairly troubling story in the Des Moines Register about financial and other problems facing IASB and that story also indicates the possibly of related problems at Pay Schools. I have pasted that article below in case you have not seen it (which is doubtful, I realize). In any case, as you know from our general counsel, Debra Silk's previous inquiries, we have made a previous inquiry regarding the accuracy of the royalty payments to MTSBA by Pay Schools. Specifically, we have a couple of relatively large school districts who have advised our marketing partner, the Montana Association of School Business Officials, that they are using Pay Schools for transactions but there have been virtually no royalty payments to MTSBA. To date we have chalked that up to the program taking some time to gather steam, and we accepted your previous assurance that the royalty payments were accurate, but in light of the article below we would like to have your personal assurance of the following:

1. That Pay Schools remains a viable company, and that none of what is discussed in the article below affects the financial solvency or other ability of Pay Schools to deliver on its contractual promises to MTSBA and its members;
2. That Pay Schools has paid MTSBA members all payments due from transactions in those school districts using Pay Schools in Montana;
3. That Pay Schools has paid MTSBA all royalties to which it is due under our contract based on transactions referenced in 3 above; and
4. A complete list of the school districts in Montana using Pay Schools

We would also like to have the auditors who have been retained by IASB to include in their audit an analysis of the Montana school district transactions using PaySchools to ensure that our members have received all payments due and to ensure that MTSBA has received the royalty income to which it is entitled under the agreement we have with PaySchools.

Please confirm receipt of this email and please respond to my requests above.

Sincerely,

Lance L. Melton
Executive Director
Montana School Boards Association

School board group faces fraud probe, money crisis

By CLARK KAUFFMAN • ckkauffman@dmreg.com • © 2010, Des Moines Register and Tribune Co. • March 7, 2010
A group funded with taxpayer money is in the midst of a financial crisis and has asked forensic auditors to look for evidence of fraud and criminal activity at the organization.

Two teams of auditors are going through records of the Iowa Association of School Boards. One of them is looking into allegations that:

- Public money was used for a former executive's vacation to Bora Bora.
- Staffers not only kept board members in the dark about financial problems but actively misled them about a multimillion-dollar business deal.
- A for-profit company run by an association executive received \$5 million from the organization.

In addition, the group's executive director has acknowledged collecting \$59,000 in extra pay over the past eight months, but says she might have been "set up" by the association's chief financial officer. There are also allegations of conflicts of interest, nepotism, lax financial controls and inadequate board oversight.

Auditors and association officials say they don't yet know the full scope of the agency's problems or whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead. They said they hope to know more when the association's governing board meets this week.

"It makes me feel totally nauseated," said association board president Russ Wiesley, a Waukee school board member. "It's gut-wrenching."

Board member Jack Hill, who represents the North Scott Community School District, said it's not clear what went wrong.

"Apparently we're out of money and we've got to figure out how we got there," said Hill, who still serves on the board's executive committee.

The association collects annual dues, ranging from \$726 to \$10,366, from all of Iowa's 361 public school districts. It spends at least \$2.4 million worth of government grants each year, and it collects millions more from conferences, consulting and cash-management programs funded by schools. Its mission is to improve public education through training and research that help Iowa's locally elected school boards.

In recent years, though, the association has expanded to include a number of business ventures that serve schools in as many as 40 states. Some of those business ventures don't relate directly to the work of school boards, and some are tied to the association's current financial crisis.

Controversies swirl around past CFO

Some of the allegations of wrongdoing center on Kevin Schick, who served as the association's chief financial officer from last summer through early January.

Schick allegedly told board members last year that eBay officials had committed to buying one of the association's business ventures, PaySchools, a national business that manages financial accounts. When the deal failed to materialize, Schick told the board that eBay executives had flown in to close the deal, but changed their minds in the plane after hearing that former association officials were involved in some type of litigation.

In reality, the deal was never seriously considered and there were no such lawsuits, association officials say. "It was all fabricated," said Mary Delagardelle, the association's deputy executive director.

Schick was fired in January after officials concluded he had lied to the staff and the board about the eBay deal. Association officials say they then found evidence that he had used an Iowa School Board Association credit card to buy

airline tickets for a vacation trip to Bora Bora, a tropical island in the South Pacific.

At least some of that \$1,100 expense appears to have been repaid, association officials said. Board members say Schick once told them he owned an island off the coast of Florida and showed them a photo of it during a board meeting. There are conflicting accounts as to where the idea originated, but late last year someone at the association suggested the organization's top executives hold a retreat on the island, with Schick personally flying them there.

The island retreat was placed on staff members' electronic calendars, but association officials say that was done in jest and no one seriously considered traveling there. Board records indicate that before he was fired, Schick offered to personally loan the association \$2 million so it could pay for the remodeling of, and the mortgage on, the association's Grand Avenue headquarters in Des Moines. The land and building is assessed at \$2.3 million.

"I was flabbergasted," Wiesley said. The board didn't accept the offer.

Association officials said Schick underwent two background checks before he was hired, but those checks did not uncover a well-publicized lawsuit Schick initiated in 1997. Schick had sued Drake University, alleging that while he was a student there his mental-health counselor convinced him that he had been raised by a satanic cult. The counselor allegedly prescribed a series of treatment regimens that included sex, a visit to a psychic and a series of ritual chants. The lawsuit was settled out of court.

Schick said Saturday he has committed no wrongdoing but the association cut off his access to records that would prove his innocence.

Board didn't approve major salary increase

Maxine Kilcrease worked for the Heartland Area Education Agency before she became the Iowa School Board Association's executive director last July.

The association agreed to pay her \$210,000. But in September, Kilcrease told Hill, then the board president, that her written contract and her pay didn't reflect an oral agreement that the association would compensate her for payroll taxes and other deductions.

To address that problem, she and Hill revised her written contract so it obligated the association to pay for all payroll taxes, 401(k), flex and other administrative fees. The new contract was signed without the knowledge or consent of the full board, Hill and Kilcrease said Saturday.

Last week, one day after The Des Moines Register asked for a list of association officials and their salaries, Kilcrease reimbursed the association for \$59,000 in pay.

Kilcrease said Saturday that when her salary increase took effect in early October, she immediately realized her pay had been increased too much to offset the payroll deductions.

"It was way too much," she said Saturday. "I just about had a stroke."

Kilcrease told the Register that over the next five months, she tried in vain to get Schick to reduce her pay - a charge that Schick denies.

"If that was true, she had the authority to go above or around me and get her pay corrected," he said. "She was the executive director."

Hill said Friday that he knew nothing of any issues involving Kilcrease's pay or contract.

"I don't know anything about that," he said. "There was never any discussion between Maxine and I about a pay increase, because I never knew it was increased."

But on Saturday, after association officials sent him records documenting his involvement in the matter, Hill said he recalled that Kilcrease had complained about her pay and the two of them signed a new contract to address the problem. He said Kilcrease told him he had the authority to revise the contract without the involvement of the full board. Kilcrease said it was the other way around - that it was Hill who said the matter didn't need to go before the full board.

Kilcrease said she now feels that Schick's refusal to change her pay might have been part of a "setup." She said she never told Hill or the full board that she was collecting too much pay because she didn't want to bother them.

Because the association is a nonprofit corporation, not a unit of government, its records are unavailable under the Iowa Open Records Law. However, the organization has given the Register access to some financial reports. The newspaper's request for a list of employee salaries will be considered by the association's board of directors next week.

Financial deals for spinoff groups

Association records point to a variety of reasons the organization is in financial trouble.

For years, the nonprofit association has been adding to the services it provides to Iowa schools, and many of those efforts have been spun off into separate business ventures with their own staff and governing boards. The association spent millions of dollars launching and, in some cases, propping up those endeavors.

For example:

- The association created the National School Foundation Association to help schools across the country create their own revenue-generating foundations. The NSFA was a small operation, but it struggled financially. In 2008, the Iowa association forgave a \$491,109 loan to the NSFA.
- The association also created IJUMP, a program that helps Iowa schools get a better price on fuel. At some point, IJUMP mistakenly underbilled the schools almost \$800,000 for the fuel it was providing. Rather than bill the schools the correct amount, IJUMP and the association absorbed the hit.

- The association also funneled millions of dollars into a wholly owned subsidiary called Local Government Services, a company that ran some of the association's business ventures. That for-profit corporation not only received direct cash infusions from the Iowa Association of School Boards, it also paid the salary of Jon Muller, the association's then-chief financial officer. Muller was the president of Local Government Services. His association salary was \$184,582 in 2008, according to IRS records.

Muller says there was nothing improper about any of the transactions, but his successor, Schick, told board members the association had given \$5 million to Local Government Services that wasn't repaid or properly documented as a loan.

The association's auditors say they are still looking into those cash transfers and haven't determined whether they were improperly handled.

Association officials say they're not sure whether Muller's dual roles - or the dual roles played by board members who serve both the association and its affiliates - have created conflicts of interest, but that is also being investigated. Delagardelle, the deputy director, says the association may have strayed too far from its core mission of helping Iowa school boards conduct their business. By creating business enterprises with their own sources of revenue, the organization grew in size to the point where, financially, it is now one of the largest school board associations in America.

Some of the business ventures the association created to help schools better manage their own finances now appear to have been mismanaged themselves. Compounding the problem is the fact that in recent years the association's auditors allegedly failed to put in writing all of their concerns with the organization's finances.

Delagardelle said the auditors recently explained that they had identified about a dozen concerns and relayed them verbally to top staffers who, apparently, didn't share the information with the board or others.

"That was a surprise to all of us," she said.

She said the association is now implementing a series of policy changes designed to improve oversight and accountability. There are new policies on credit card use, travel expenses and the approval of business plans. There's now a certified public accountant on the board, and the entire board is receiving training on how to read complex financial reports.

Internal whistle-blower complaints - there have been at least four in recent months - are going to be investigated by an independent firm.

There is also a new policy on nepotism, which is a direct response to concerns that many former IASB officials are related. At least six current or former employees are closely related to others within the association, although the organization now has only 38 employees.

For now, though, the association's first order of business is determining the full scope of the financial crisis.

On Saturday, Kilcrease said she had no idea the association had such serious problems when she took over as executive director last summer.

"It feels like I've walked into a tsunami," she said.

Wiesley says that while the association's ability to continue serving Iowa school boards is in jeopardy, he's optimistic. "It's going to be touch and go for a few months," he said. "But we'll survive and keep going."

What the executive director's contract says

Maxine Kilcrease's original three-year contract to serve as the executive director of the Iowa Association of School Boards includes these provisions:

- An annual salary of \$210,000.
- A 5 percent retirement-plan contribution to a 401(k) plan.
- "Premium payments" for family medical and hospital insurance.
- Four weeks of paid vacation each year, plus 10 paid holidays, two personal-leave days and 15 days of sick leave.
- Unlimited reimbursement for travel and entertainment expenses related to IASB business.
- Private club dues and expenses at the Des Moines Club.
- Rotary Club dues and expenses.
- If Kilcrease is terminated for virtually any reason other than moral turpitude, illegal drug use or chronic drunkenness, she is entitled to collect the balance of the three-year contract's compensation.

Sometime after November 2009, the contract was changed to stipulate that the association would pay "all payroll taxes, 401(k), flex and other administrative fees."

Although that change resulted in a significant increase in pay for Kilcrease, the new contract was not approved by the full board. The document itself was left undated, with no mention of it being a revised version of a previous agreement.

Search

From: Allan Negstad <ajnegstad@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 9:47 AM
To: Vens, Mary Jane
Subject: Re: Hi
Attachments: P3010062.JPG; P3010062.JPG

Thanks...adjusting to time and cold.

On Tue, Mar 9, 2010 at 5:50 PM, Vens, Mary Jane <mvens@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Welcome back Al. Hows PT Joanne?

Sorry haven't been very responsive lately. Read the Sunday Des Moines Register on line and you will understand why IASB is busy. Also managed to work a little hospital stay in over the weekend, but am out and about now.

John is arranging for a rental car for us in San Diego. Give me a call on my cell phone if that is not o.k. with you. Ed and I will get the car and you can fill the tank once. Give me a call on my cell if renting is not o.k. to do. John and Teresa spent some time in S.D. and felt it was pretty essential.

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From: Olesen, Susie
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 9:19 AM
To: 'vicki.oleson@uni.edu'
Cc: 'pautrey@usskills.net'
Subject: The Unedited Version

The Des Moines Register ran a story today about an IASB program called Skills. We imagine you have many questions and we have tried to answer them in this note. Please call with any others.

What is Skills Iowa?

Skills Iowa provides two technology tools to Iowa schools and the training and support to implement them through a federal grant:

- Skills Tutor provides 5 - 10 minute tutorials in reading comprehension, vocabulary, mathematics, language, library skills and some science to students in grades 3 -12.
- Assessment Center is a tool that can be used to assess students in grades 3-12 in reading comprehension, mathematics and the conventions of language so they can determine where to go next with their instruction.

Both of these programs have excellent reporting features that can analyze data and provide specific information much more quickly than has been possible in the past. As in the business world, the computer can be used to do things we have traditionally done in schools by hand more quickly and efficiently.

IASB provides not only the tools but also the training and support for implementation of the tools. The research is clear that unless educators receive significant training and support, most educational innovations will go by the wayside. So to help ensure implementation with students and resulting student learning, we provide that necessary support for implementation.

Both of these tools are web-based, so students, teachers, principals, and parents can access them wherever they have access to the Internet - at home, at school, at the public library or community centers. These tools and the training and support to implement them are provided at no cost to the local district and paid for by the grant.

How many schools and student participate in Skills Iowa?

Currently Skills Iowa serves approximately 85,000 Iowa kids in 114 school districts in 300 buildings.

What is formative assessment and what does the research say about formative assessment and Skills Iowa?

Formative assessment is an educational practice where teachers use information from student assessments to determine what to teach next based on what kids have demonstrated they know and can do (or don't know and can't do). Paul Black and Dylan William studied all the research related to formative assessment and wrote an article in a well respected educational journal called *Phi Delta Kappan* in 1998. They said, "All these studies show that innovations that include strengthening the practice of formative assessment produce significant and often substantial learning gains."

Is Skills Iowa the only kind of assessment teachers should use formatively?

Absolutely not. Teachers have a myriad of data at their fingertips and effective teachers use it all. They observe and listen to students regularly and learn more about what those students know and can do. Effective teachers examine the daily work of their students. They create short assessments on the spot to determine what students know and act on that immediately. They look at projects students have created. They study end-of-unit assessment results whether those results are traditional tests or student created projects. Effective teachers use whatever kids produce or say to inform their instruction. Skills Iowa provides information teachers can add to their already rich data environment.

Does Skills Iowa work?

A study done of the 2008-09 Skills Iowa project using Iowa Test data as the indicator of learning, found that when the Skills Iowa tools were used, student achievement went up, particularly among the most struggling learners. IASB has made recommendations for further study to see if these conclusions will be supported in future years. We know that implementation is critically important to the success of this project, so we continue to try to figure out how to make sure the data and information schools get from these tools is used to drive instruction.

How is Skills Iowa used in Iowa schools?

First and foremost, our goal is that Skills Iowa data be used by teachers and students to determine where to go next in learning. That is the most important focus of the project. Beyond that, local schools determine how they can best use Skills Iowa to support the learning of their students.

Can technology replace teachers?

Absolutely not. In those classrooms where Skills Iowa is used well, faculties determine how to use the tools in ways that best supports the learning of students. Skills Iowa, nor any technology program, will ever take the place of a fine teacher, but Skills Iowa can provide important data and information as teachers provide practice, remediation, and acceleration for their students.

When are students expected to use the Skills Iowa tools?

Each school determines how the Skills Iowa tools will work best for them. Some students use the tools during computer lab time or in the library. In some classrooms there are learning centers where students can use the Skills Iowa tools. Some teachers use the tutorials to teach a concept to the whole class on an overhead projector as a way to introduce a concept or skill. Some students are assigned Skills Iowa work as homework and either do it in the lab or classroom before or after school, at the community center, at the public library, at home, or at a friend's home.

How long has IASB been involved with Skills Iowa (and before that Following the Leader) and who is involved?

IASB has been involved with this program since the 2004-05 school year and the program has been provided in the following number of school buildings:

04-05 - 93 school buildings
05-06 - 222 school buildings
06-07 - 210 school buildings
07-08 - 225 school buildings
08-09 - 225 school buildings
09-10 - 300 school buildings

If you interested in seeing a list of the 300 participating school buildings this year, go to the Skills Iowa website: www.skillsiowa.org

Not all schools have been in the program for the entire time. Sometimes schools decide the Skills Iowa tools don't work for them, so they drop out. There is no mandate for participation. Schools decide if it works for them.

How do schools join the program?

IASB has sent out numerous emails to school superintendents inviting them to join the program. If a school responds with interest, Susie Olesen, the project director, or another person working for Skills Iowa, goes to the school and demonstrates the use of the tools, usually to a leadership team from the interested school.

If you need more information, send Susie an email at ssolesen@ia-sb.org or give her a call at 800-795-4272. If you want to know more about Skills Iowa, you can go to our Skills Iowa website: www.skillsiowa.org

Susan Olesen
Project Director
Skills Iowa |
641-745-5284 (cell)
641-743-6423 (home office)
641-743-6129 (fax)

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Search

From: Olesen, Susie
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 8:11 PM
To: 'Michael Perik'; 'NicoleR@review.com'; 'pautrey@usskills.net'
Subject: FW: IASB Memo on Skills Iowa

Thought you might enjoy the note we received from Reg Reynolds, the board secretary/business manager at Ruthven-Ayrshire. She's a jewel. Read from the bottom up.

-----Original Message-----

From: Olesen, Susie
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 7:02 PM
To: 'Rereyn@ruthven.k12.ia.us'
Subject: Re: IASB Memo on Skills Iowa

That would be fabulous, Reg! Thanks!

----- Original Message -----

From: Reg Reynolds <Rereyn@ruthven.k12.ia.us>
To: Olesen, Susie
Sent: Tue Mar 09 18:56:25 2010
Subject: RE: IASB Memo on Skills Iowa

Want this to go to the newspaper?

Regina Reynolds

Board Secretary / Bookkeeper

Ruthven-Ayrshire CSD

Box 159

Ruthven, Iowa 51358

rereyn@ruthven.k12.ia.us

712-837-5211

712-837-5210 Fax

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If you have additional questions, please send Susie an email at solesen@ia-sb.org, call her at 800-795-4272 or visit www.skillsiowa.org.

Search

From: Olesen, Susie
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 7:02 PM
To: 'Rereyn@ruthven.k12.ia.us'
Subject: Re: IASB Memo on Skills Iowa

That would be fabulous, Reg! Thanks!

----- Original Message -----

From: Reg Reynolds <Rereyn@ruthven.k12.ia.us>
To: Olesen, Susie
Sent: Tue Mar 09 18:56:25 2010
Subject: RE: IASB Memo on Skills Iowa

Want this to go to the newspaper?

Regina Reynolds

Board Secretary / Bookkeeper

Ruthven-Ayrshire CSD

Box 159

Ruthven, Iowa 51358

rereyn@ruthven.k12.ia.us

712-837-5211

712-837-5210 Fax

From: ia-sb@ia-sb.org [mailto:ia-sb@ia-sb.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 5:40 PM
To: Reg Reynolds
Subject: IASB Memo on Skills Iowa

IASB Memo on Skills Iowa

The Des Moines Register ran a story today about an IASB program called Skills Iowa. We imagine you have many questions, so today we compiled some information in hopes of answering them. Please contact us with any others.

What is Skills Iowa?

Skills Iowa provides two technology tools to Iowa schools and the training and support to implement them:

- * Skills Tutor provides 5 – 10 minute tutorials in reading comprehension, vocabulary, mathematics, language, library skills and some science to students in grades 3-12.
- * Assessment Center is a tool that can be used to assess students in grades 3-12 in reading comprehension, mathematics and the conventions of language so they can determine where to go next with their instruction.

Both of these programs have excellent reporting features that can analyze data and provide specific information much more quickly than has been possible in the past. As in the business world, the computer can be used to do things we have traditionally done in schools by hand more quickly and efficiently.

IASB provides not only the tools but also the training and support for implementation of the tools. The research is clear that unless educators receive significant training and support, most educational innovations will go by the wayside. So to help ensure implementation with students and resulting student learning, we provide that necessary support for implementation.

Both of these tools are web-based, so students, teachers, principals, and parents can access them wherever they have access to the Internet – at home, at school, at the public library or community centers. These tools and the training and support to implement them are provided at no cost to the local district and paid for by a grant.

How many schools and student participate in Skills Iowa?

Currently Skills Iowa serves approximately 85,000 Iowa kids in 114 school districts in 300 buildings.

Does Skills Iowa work?

A study done of the 2008-09 Skills Iowa project using Iowa Test data as the indicator of learning found that when the Skills Iowa tools were used, student achievement went up, particularly among the most struggling learners. IASB has made recommendations for further study to see if these conclusions will be supported in future years. We know that implementation is critically important to the success of this project, so we continue to try to figure out how to make sure the data and information schools get from these tools is used to drive instruction.

How is Skills Iowa used in Iowa schools?

Our goal is that Skills Iowa data is used to determine where students and teachers go next in their instruction. That is the most important focus of the project. Beyond that, local schools determine how they can best use Skills Iowa to support the learning of their students.

How long has IASB been involved with Skills Iowa (and before that Following the Leader) and who is involved?

IASB has been involved with this program since the 2004-05 school year. At that time, the leaders of the program were looking for a new group to manage it in Iowa - they asked ISEA first, but they were not interested. The offer came to IASB next, and we agreed to participate. The program has been provided in the following number of school buildings:

04-05 - 93 school buildings

05-06 - 222 school buildings

06-07 - 210 school buildings

07-08 - 225 school buildings

08-09 - 225 school buildings

09-10 - 300 school buildings

If you want a list of the 300 participating school buildings this year, go to the Skills Iowa Web site: www.skillsiowa.org
<<http://www.skillsiowa.org>>

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 5:41 PM
To: Wiesley, Russ
Subject: RE: Media thoughts

Russ, if you want to talk more about communications at any time, I'm here this week. At the very least, we'll need to carve out some time after the board meeting to discuss what we release afterwards, and to whom. That will be critical - our members, and media, will be calling and expecting news from that, just fyi.

Keep up your tremendous work - we are lucky to have such a dedicated person, able to come in and get through this. Thanks.

Megan

From: Wiesley, Russ
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 11:33 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: RE: Media thoughts

This sounds great to me.

I was going to talk to you today about sending message out to past board members, academy grads, LRC etc. to get their feedback on what they're hearing. I'm on the way to the office now and we can talk about it then.

Russ Wiesley
805 Walnut Ridge Drive
Waukee, Iowa 50263-9619
315-238-3937
rwiesley@mchsl.com

From: Forgrave, Megan [mailto:mforgrave@ia-sb.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 11:22 AM
To: Wiesley, Russ; Delagardelle, Mary; Smith, LeGrande
Cc: Maxson, Connie; Heiligenthal, Harry
Subject: Media thoughts

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 10:48 AM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: Perik

No problem Clark - I thought Mary and I had answered it and didn't realize until your note late yesterday that you needed more clarification. Also, whenever you can let me know of your deadlines, we'll do our best to meet them.

Thanks,
Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 10:38 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Perik

Yes, the story was edited and turned in around 6:20 p.m., long after my usual deadline, and I left about a half-hour after that. Obviously, Susie had plenty of opportunity -- Friday, Saturday, Sunday and all day Monday -- to return my calls and she chose not to do that. I can't include something in a story that I don't have and don't know is coming my way.

Having said that, I do appreciate the fact that she was willing to put something in writing last night, and I will make use of it.

Clark

On 3/9/10 9:15 AM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Hi Clark-

I realize this was after at least the 5 p.m. deadline, but I was disappointed that, instead of using the information below, you quoted Mary saying she didn't know how Skills Iowa came to IASB. Will keep answering your questions and being cooperative as possible, but if we offer up information, it would be nice if it was included - just had to share that.

Thanks,
Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 7:10 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Cc: 'Russ Wiesley (rwiesley@mchsi.com)'; Delagardelle, Mary; Smith, LeGrande
Subject: RE: Perik

Clark-

This is a description from Susie. She was more comfortable emailing the information that you need. Hopefully it's clear. I'm signing off soon for the night, so call my cell if you need anything this evening.

Thanks,
Megan

A national group called the Education Leaders Council (ELC) had received an earmark for a program called Following the Leader (FTL) beginning in 2002 in 6 states (Iowa not being one of them), which provided two technology tools at no cost to public schools. ELC was working with the vendors of the programs (Homeroom.com published by The Princeton Review and Skills Tutor published by Achievement Technologies) to get the programs in place in several states and looking for an Iowa organization to recruit and train schools to use these programs in Iowa. They first approached ISEA (the Iowa State Education Association) but they were not interested. They came to us next, and we took it on.

When ELC was responsible for the program, they contracted with Achievement Technologies to manage the field work, and Achievement Technologies subcontracted with IASB running its work in Iowa. Once ELC dissolved, we became the grantee. We changed the name to Skills Iowa to make it more identifiable. Since then, we've helped more schools gain access to the programs, and that is shown in the list of participating schools, by year, below.

04-05 93 school buildings
05-06 222 school buildings
06-07 210 school buildings
07-08 225 school buildings
08-09 225 school buildings
09-10 300 school buildings

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 5:02 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Perik

Well, I can't say as I blame her... Would she be OK if the three of us talked -- via conference call or in-person - and I limited my questions to non-Harkin, program-only questions? My main concern is that I want a better handle on how Following The Leaders relocated to IASB. I don't know how, when or why that happened.

On 3/8/10 4:57 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

I've told her it's up to her to call you back, so you are welcome to try her again, but I'm not sure if she's comfortable, Clark, due to not having much media experience... If there are specific things I can pass on as questions, we can try that... I'll help however I can.

Thanks,

Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 4:54 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Perik

Well, that's a decent number I can use for the more immediate story.

But if, in the days ahead, you can get a more all-inclusive number, let me know.

Thanks for the help with that.

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P.S. I'd still like to talk to Susie, of course, just to get a better handle on some Skills Iowa issues...

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Clark-

The total amount that Skills Iowa paid to Perik's software company, US Skills LLC, from August 2007 to November 2009 is \$6,278,300. I cannot get a further breakdown until later tonight or tomorrow, because our finance person had to leave and has been tied up today.

What's your deadline?

Thanks,
Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:50 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Perik

Megan,

During Friday's meeting, I asked how much money Skills Iowa had spent with Michael Perik's companies in total. I think she mentioned that she had those figures in her notes in her office, but not at hand. Do you or Mary have a breakdown of money spent each year with those companies?

Clark

Search

From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 10:38 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Perik

Yes, the story was edited and turned in around 6:20 p.m., long after my usual deadline, and I left about a half-hour after that. Obviously, Susie had plenty of opportunity – Friday, Saturday, Sunday and all day Monday – to return my calls and she chose not to do that. I can't include something in a story that I don't have and don't know is coming my way.

Having said that, I do appreciate the fact that she was willing to put something in writing last night, and I will make use of it.

Clark

On 3/9/10 9:15 AM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Hi Clark-

I realize this was after at least the 5 p.m. deadline, but I was disappointed that, instead of using the information below, you quoted Mary saying she didn't know how Skills Iowa came to IASB. Will keep answering your questions and being cooperative as possible, but if we offer up information, it would be nice if it was included - just had to share that.

Thanks,
Megan

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 7:10 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Cc: 'Russ Wiesley (rwiesley@mchsi.com)'; Delagardelle, Mary; Smith, LeGrande
Subject: RE: Perik

Clark-

This is a description from Susie. She was more comfortable emailing the information that you need. Hopefully it's clear. I'm signing off soon for the night, so call my cell if you need anything this evening.

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Megan

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04-05 93 school buildings
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From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 5:02 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Perik

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 9:16 AM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: Perik

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To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Cc: 'Russ Wiesley (rwiesley@mchsi.com)'; Delagardelle, Mary; Smith, LeGrande
Subject: RE: Perik

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Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 5:02 PM

To: Forgrave, Megan

Subject: Re: Perik

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From: Wiesley, Russ
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:43 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan; Olesen, Susie; Delagardelle, Mary
Subject: RE: Perik

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Russ Wiesley
805 Walnut Ridge Drive
Waukee, Iowa 50263-9619
515-238-3937
rwiesley@mchsi.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Forgrave, Megan [mailto:mforgrave@ia-sb.org]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 6:39 PM
To: Olesen, Susie; Delagardelle, Mary; Wiesley, Russ
Subject: RE: Perik

I'm sorry, Susie - I haven't heard back yet... Hopefully Russ will respond yet tonight.

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From: Olesen, Susie
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 6:14 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan; Delagardelle, Mary; Wiesley, Russ
Subject: RE: Perik

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To: Olesen, Susie
Cc: Delagardelle, Mary; Wiesley, Russ
Subject: FW: Perik

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To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Perik

Might want to add that it serves 4000 teachers and principals and approximately 85,000 Iowa kids

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To: Olesen, Susie
Sent: Mon Mar 08 19:08:38 2010
Subject: RE: Perik

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Subject: RE: Perik

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To: Olesen, Susie
Cc: Delagardelle, Mary; Wiesley, Russ
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From: Olesen, Susie
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 7:37 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Perik

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Sent: Mon Mar 08 19:08:38 2010
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Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 5:02 PM
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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 7:09 PM
To: Olesen, Susie
Subject: RE: Perik

Susie, we edited this very slightly for ease of reading... See below as what I sent to Clark. Hope it's still all just fine - I worked with Mary D on this. Thanks!!

Clark-

This is a description from Susie. She was more comfortable emailing the information that you need. Hopefully it's clear.

Thanks,
Megan

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When ELC was responsible for the program, they contracted with Achievement Technologies to manage the field work, and Achievement Technologies subcontracted with IASB running its work in Iowa. Once ELC dissolved, we became the grantee. We changed the name to Skills Iowa to make it more identifiable. Since then, we've helped more schools gain access to the programs, and that is shown in the list of participating schools, by year, below.

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Clark

Search

From: Olesen, Susie
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 6:14 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan; Delagardelle, Mary; Wiesley, Russ
Subject: RE: Perik

I have a school board meeting at 6:30, but should be available by 8:30 if you need to talk. Thanks, Megan.

Susie

A national group called the Education Leaders Council (ELC) had received an earmark for a program called Following the Leader (FTL) beginning in 2002 in 6 states (Iowa not being one of them), which provided two technology tools at no cost to public schools. ELC was working with the vendors of the programs (Homeroom.com published by The Princeton Review and Skills Tutor published by Achievement Technologies) to get the programs in place in several states and looking for an Iowa organization to recruit and train schools to use these programs in Iowa. At the time, IASB was the grantee of an earmark from Senator Harkin's called the Lighthouse project (which was a study of the board's role in student learning) and we might be willing to subcontract with the vendor to get the FTL program going in Iowa.

We provided the training and support as a subcontractor to Achievement Technologies and later US Skills. I believe ELC dissolved and in order to keep the program going in the many schools it now served in Iowa, there needed to be a new grantee. Since we had experience in Iowa providing the training and support, IASB became the granted entity. Since ELC was no longer involved (I believe this changed in the 2007-08 school year), we wanted a more identifiable name, so we went with Skills Iowa.

04-05 93 school buildings
05-06 222 school buildings
06-07 210 school buildings
07-08 225 school buildings
08-09 225 school buildings
09-10 300 school buildings

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 5:05 PM
To: Olesen, Susie
Cc: Delagardelle, Mary; Wiesley, Russ
Subject: FW: Perik

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 2:41 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: Skills Iowa question

Harry's time has not been incorrectly billed to Skills Iowa, and Mary D. is confident of that - unless you have a more specific question or issue we need to ask her about.

We have looked at great length at the 08-09 expenses charged to that account, in preparation for our audit, and we do not suspect improper charges.

I am getting your other information together as far as the total spent to Perik's companies.

Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 12:39 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Skills Iowa question

Megan,

One more question: Can you tell me whether work performed by Harry Heilgenthal was improperly billed to the Skills Iowa program?

Also, were there other costs that were improperly billed to the program that you folks know of, or suspect, right now?

Obviously, if the answer to either of those questions is "yes," I'd appreciate whatever details you can provide in terms of cost.

Thanks.

Clark

Search

From: Flynn, Ann <AFlynn@nsba.org>
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 2:25 PM
To: 'hilarylamonte@potomacplanet.com'
Subject: RE: FW: IASB - The Des Moines Register

Sounds like a WONDERFUL idea!!! I'm starting the Spring site visit "see America" plan...but should be able to find some dates that work over the next month!

Ann

From: hilarylamonte@potomacplanet.com [mailto:hilarylamonte@potomacplanet.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 3:16 PM
To: Flynn, Ann
Subject: RE: FW: IASB - The Des Moines Register

Hi Ann,

Thanks for sending this. Yes, I am still working with Iowa and was aware of the article. Exciting times!

Things are good, but obviously uncertain in that realm right now.

Rachel and I talked over the weekend and were saying how great it would be to have ladies' night again sometime soon. Are you up for it?

-hilary

----- Original Message -----

Subject: FW: IASB - The Des Moines Register
From: "Flynn, Ann" <AFlynn@nsba.org>
Date: Mon, March 08, 2010 12:54 pm
To: <hilary.lamonte@earthlink.net>

Hilary...

In case you were not aware of this...I wanted to share it with you because - as far as I know - I think you are still working with the IA association's projects. I hope all is well with you!

Ann

From: Bryant, Anne
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:26 AM
To: NSBASTAFF
Subject: FW: IASB - The Des Moines Register

Dear Colleagues:

We learned on Friday that the Iowa Association of School Boards was facing some very tough times. On Sunday the story broke in the Des Moines Register. We want you to be aware of these stories... we do not know more than what you are reading below. Except that we do know this organization well, and they have good board members and good staff. They have called in an auditor to help them and I feel sure that the truth will win out. Please do not communicate on this subject electronically or by any other means, as any communication about the situation will go through me as NSBA's spokesperson.

Thank you for understanding, and I know you share, as I do, our support for IASB. Anne

Here are the full articles and links from yesterday's and today's The Des Moines Register on IASB.

Anne and the staff are looking into the appropriate accountability of PaySchools.

Troubled school board association must be saved, education leaders say

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100308/NEWS02/3080322/Troubled-school-board-association-must-be-saved-education-leaders-say>

The Des Moines Register

By STACI HUPP * shupp@dmreg.com * March 8, 2010

School leaders who send thousands of taxpayer dollars a year to the Iowa Association of School Boards say they stand by the struggling organization.

The Des Moines Sunday Register reported in a copyrighted article that the association is in the midst of a financial crisis and has asked auditors to examine its records for evidence of fraud and criminal activity.

"There's a lot of concern about who fills this void if the Iowa Association of School Boards isn't there," said Winterset Superintendent Mike Wells. "If we have to pay more money to help straighten it out, we'll do that. There have been mistakes made, but it's too important to let it just slip away."

Association officials say they don't have a clear understanding of the agency's financial problems, and they aren't sure whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead.

The statewide group spends millions in taxpayer dollars each year. It receives government grants and collects annual dues from all 361 school districts in Iowa. The dues range from about \$700 to \$10,000, depending on a district's student head count. In return, school board members receive budget expertise, legal advice, lobbying, research, access to low-interest rates on loans and other support.

Wells, who is new to Winterset, said a loan from the school board association's Iowa School Cash Anticipation Program helped cover a budget shortfall triggered by overspending in previous years.

Other school districts have turned to the association to help resolve disputes with superintendents or sell unpopular tax increases, budget cuts or education efforts to the public.

Training is the group's biggest role, school leaders said.

"We put the management of our school systems, which are some of the more complex institutions, we put them in the control of laypeople, who, however well-intentioned, need training to understand how to do their jobs," said Sioux Central Superintendent Dan Frazier, who oversees a district of about 600 students in northwest Iowa. "They're bound by a lot of laws of which they're not fully apprised when they take office."

Some of those services have slipped with the departure of 11 association employees in the past year, school officials said.

School officials also said they were confused by a decision to lay off veteran association employees, including Des Moines school board member Margaret Buckton, "who we thought was integral to their operation," Frazier said.

Buckton, who had been employed by the school board association since 1998, was the organization's associate executive director for public policy. In that role, she was in charge of government relations and finance training for school board members and superintendents.

Frazier said Sioux Central's school board couldn't get the help it needed to win approval of an instructional support levy - a special tax for computer equipment, teacher salaries and other classroom needs.

Frazier said the money would have helped him hire more teachers, but voters rejected it amid worries that it would be spent on new buildings.

"That was probably my biggest disappointment with IASB, how they handled the financial issues when it was something that was vital to us," Frazier said.

Sioux City Superintendent Paul Gausman said the statewide group has been upfront with members about its financial troubles.

"We certainly look forward to them working through whatever process is necessary to get their own house in order so that they can continue to be a high-powered organization to serve school boards," Gausman said.

Russ Wiesley, a Waukee school board member who is president of the school board association's board of directors, said reaction he has received from school officials around the state has been supportive.

"I have had board members call and tell me, 'Whatever you guys need, we're around to help,' " Wiesley said.

SIDE BAR:

What the executive director's contract says

Maxine Kilcrease's original three-year contract to serve as the executive director of the Iowa Association of School Boards includes these provisions:

- * An annual salary of \$210,000.
 - * A 5 percent retirement-plan contribution to a 401(k) plan.
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School board group faces fraud probe, money crisis

The Des Moines Register

By CLARK KAUFFMAN * ckauffman@dmreg.com * (c) 2010, Des Moines Register and Tribune Co. * March 7, 2010

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/201003070405/NEWS10/3070341>

A group funded with taxpayer money is in the midst of a financial crisis and has asked forensic auditors to look for evidence of fraud and criminal activity at the organization.

Two teams of auditors are going through records of the Iowa Association of School Boards. One of them is looking into allegations that:

* Public money was used for a former executive's vacation to Bora Bora.

* Staffers not only kept board members in the dark about financial problems but actively misled them about a multimillion-dollar business deal.

* A for-profit company run by an association executive received \$5 million from the organization.

In addition, the group's executive director has acknowledged collecting \$59,000 in extra pay over the past eight months, but says she might have been "set up" by the association's chief financial officer. There are also allegations of conflicts of interest, nepotism, lax financial controls and inadequate board oversight.

Auditors and association officials say they don't yet know the full scope of the agency's problems or whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead. They said they hope to know more when the association's governing board meets this week.

"It makes me feel totally nauseated," said association board president Russ Wiesley, a Waukee school board member. "It's gut-wrenching."

Board member Jack Hill, who represents the North Scott Community School District, said it's not clear what went wrong.

"Apparently we're out of money and we've got to figure out how we got there," said Hill, who still serves on the board's executive committee.

The association collects annual dues, ranging from \$726 to \$10,366, from all of Iowa's 361 public school districts. It spends at least \$2.4 million worth of government grants each year, and it collects millions more from conferences, consulting and cash-management programs funded by schools. Its mission is to improve public education through training and research that help Iowa's locally elected school boards.

In recent years, though, the association has expanded to include a number of business ventures that serve schools in as many as 40 states.

Some of those business ventures don't relate directly to the work of school boards, and some are tied to the association's current financial crisis.

Controversies swirl around past CFO

Some of the allegations of wrongdoing center on Kevin Schick, who served as the association's chief financial officer from last summer through early January.

Schick allegedly told board members last year that eBay officials had committed to buying one of the association's business ventures, PaySchools, a national business that manages financial accounts. When the deal failed to materialize, Schick told the board that eBay executives had flown in to close the deal, but changed their minds in the plane after hearing that former association officials were involved in some type of litigation.

In reality, the deal was never seriously considered and there were no such lawsuits, association officials say.

"It was all fabricated," said Mary Delagardelle, the association's deputy executive director.

Schick was fired in January after officials concluded he had lied to the staff and the board about the eBay deal. Association officials say they then found evidence that he had used an Iowa School Board Association credit card to buy airline tickets for a vacation trip to Bora Bora, a tropical island in the South Pacific.

At least some of that \$1,100 expense appears to have been repaid, association officials said.

Board members say Schick once told them he owned an island off the coast of Florida and showed them a photo of it during a board meeting. There are conflicting accounts as to where the idea originated, but late last year someone at the association suggested the organization's top executives hold a retreat on the island, with Schick personally flying them there.

The island retreat was placed on staff members' electronic calendars, but association officials say that was done in jest and no one seriously considered traveling there.

Board records indicate that before he was fired, Schick offered to personally loan the association \$2 million so it could pay for the remodeling of, and the mortgage on, the association's Grand Avenue headquarters in Des Moines. The land and building is assessed at \$2.3 million.

"I was flabbergasted," Wiesley said. The board didn't accept the offer.

Association officials said Schick underwent two background checks before he was hired, but those checks did not uncover a well-publicized lawsuit Schick initiated in 1997.

Schick had sued Drake University, alleging that while he was a student there his mental-health counselor convinced him that he had been raised by a satanic cult. The counselor allegedly prescribed a series of treatment regimens that included sex, a visit to a psychic and a series of ritual chants. The lawsuit was settled out of court.

Schick said Saturday he has committed no wrongdoing but the association cut off his access to records that would prove his innocence.

Board didn't approve major salary increase

Maxine Kilcrease worked for the Heartland Area Education Agency before she became the Iowa School Board Association's executive director last July.

The association agreed to pay her \$210,000. But in September, Kilcrease told Hill, then the board president, that her written contract and her pay didn't reflect an oral agreement that the association would compensate her for payroll taxes and other deductions.

To address that problem, she and Hill revised her written contract so it obligated the association to pay for all payroll taxes, 401(k), flex and other administrative fees. The new contract was signed without the knowledge or consent of the full board, Hill and Kilcrease said

Saturday.

Last week, one day after The Des Moines Register asked for a list of association officials and their salaries, Kilcrease reimbursed the association for \$59,000 in pay.

Kilcrease said Saturday that when her salary increase took effect in early October, she immediately realized her pay had been increased too much to offset the payroll deductions.

"It was way too much," she said Saturday. "I just about had a stroke."

Kilcrease told the Register that over the next five months, she tried in vain to get Schick to reduce her pay - a charge that Schick denies.

"If that was true, she had the authority to go above or around me and get her pay corrected," he said. "She was the executive director."

Hill said Friday that he knew nothing of any issues involving Kilcrease's pay or contract.

"I don't know anything about that," he said. "There was never any discussion between Maxine and I about a pay increase, because I never knew it was increased."

But on Saturday, after association officials sent him records documenting his involvement in the matter, Hill said he recalled that Kilcrease had complained about her pay and the two of them signed a new contract to address the problem.

He said Kilcrease told him he had the authority to revise the contract without the involvement of the full board. Kilcrease said it was the other way around - that it was Hill who said the matter didn't need to go before the full board.

Kilcrease said she now feels that Schick's refusal to change her pay might have been part of a "setup." She said she never told Hill or the full board that she was collecting too much pay because she didn't want

to bother them.

Because the association is a nonprofit corporation, not a unit of government, its records are unavailable under the Iowa Open Records Law. However, the organization has given the Register access to some financial reports. The newspaper's request for a list of employee salaries will be considered by the association's board of directors next week.

Financial deals for spinoff groups

Association records point to a variety of reasons the organization is in financial trouble.

For years, the nonprofit association has been adding to the services it provides to Iowa schools, and many of those efforts have been spun off into separate business ventures with their own staff and governing boards. The association spent millions of dollars launching and, in some cases, propping up those endeavors.

For example:

* The association created the National School Foundation Association to help schools across the country create their own revenue-generating foundations. The NSFA was a small operation, but it struggled financially. In 2008, the Iowa association forgave a \$491,109 loan to the NSFA.

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* The association also funneled millions of dollars into a wholly owned subsidiary called Local Government Services, a company that ran some of the association's business ventures. That for-profit corporation not only received direct cash infusions from the Iowa Association of School Boards, it also paid the salary of Jon Muller, the association's then-chief financial officer. Muller was the president of Local Government Services. His association salary was \$184,582 in 2008, according to IRS records.

Muller says there was nothing improper about any of the transactions, but his successor, Schick, told board members the association had given \$5 million to Local Government Services that wasn't repaid or properly documented as a loan.

The association's auditors say they are still looking into those cash transfers and haven't determined whether they were improperly handled.

Association officials say they're not sure whether Muller's dual roles - or the dual roles played by board members who serve both the association and its affiliates - have created conflicts of interest, but that is also being investigated.

Delagardelle, the deputy director, says the association may have strayed too far from its core mission of helping Iowa school boards conduct their business. By creating business enterprises with their own sources of revenue, the organization grew in size to the point where, financially, it is now one of the largest school board associations in America.

Some of the business ventures the association created to help schools better manage their own finances now appear to have been mismanaged themselves. Compounding the problem is the fact that in recent years the association's auditors allegedly failed to put in writing all of their concerns with the organization's finances.

Delagardelle said the auditors recently explained that they had identified about a dozen concerns and relayed them verbally to top staffers who, apparently, didn't share the information with the board or others.

"That was a surprise to all of us," she said.

She said the association is now implementing a series of policy changes designed to improve oversight and accountability. There are new policies on credit card use, travel expenses and the approval of business plans. There's now a certified public accountant on the board, and the entire board is receiving training on how to read complex financial reports.

Internal whistle-blower complaints - there have been at least four in recent months - are going to be investigated by an independent firm.

There is also a new policy on nepotism, which is a direct response to concerns that many former IASB officials are related. At least six current or former employees are closely related to others within the association, although the organization now has only 38 employees.

For now, though, the association's first order of business is determining the full scope of the financial crisis.

On Saturday, Kilcrease said she had no idea the association had such serious problems when she took over as executive director last summer.

"It feels like I've walked into a tsunami," she said.

Wiesley says that while the association's ability to continue serving Iowa school boards is in jeopardy, he's optimistic.

"It's going to be touch and go for a few months," he said. "But we'll survive and keep going."

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Anne L. Bryant

Executive Director

National School Boards Association

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www.centerforpubliceducation.org

Search

From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 2:21 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Perik

Thanks. And maybe this goes without saying, but if you folks have studies or reports that say the program is effective, let me know. In June 2007, Following The Leaders commissioned their own study of the program's effectiveness and that report concluded FTL's effectiveness was, at best, "unclear."

Now, I realize that Skills Iowa has the same mission and the same vendors (Perik's companies) and considers itself an extension of FTL, but perhaps Skills Iowa, under IASB, has undergone some evaluations that show it to be more effective than FTL...

Clark

On 3/8/10 1:16 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Mary has one year of information - I'll ask if someone can dig up the rest of it. Thanks for your patience - as you can imagine, it's pretty busy here today.

Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:50 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Perik

Megan,

During Friday's meeting, I asked how much money Skills Iowa had spent with Michael Perik's companies in total. I think she mentioned that she had those figures in her notes in her office, but not at hand. Do you or Mary have a breakdown of money spent each year with those companies?

Clark

Search

From: Flynn, Ann <AFlynn@nsba.org>
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 1:55 PM
To: 'hilary.lamonte@earthlink.net'
Subject: FW: IASB - The Des Moines Register

Hilary...

In case you were not aware of this... I wanted to share it with you because – as far as I know – I think you are still working with the IA association's projects. I hope all is well with you!

Ann

From: Bryant, Anne
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:26 AM
To: NSBASTAFF
Subject: FW: IASB - The Des Moines Register

Dear Colleagues:

We learned on Friday that the Iowa Association of School Boards was facing some very tough times. On Sunday the story broke in the Des Moines Register. We want you to be aware of these stories... we do not know more than what you are reading below. Except that we do know this organization well, and they have good board members and good staff. They have called in an auditor to help them and I feel sure that the truth will win out. Please do not communicate on this subject electronically or by any other means, as any communication about the situation will go through me as NSBA's spokesperson.

Thank you for understanding, and I know you share, as I do, our support for IASB. Anne

Here are the full articles and links from yesterday's and today's *The Des Moines Register* on IASB. Anne and the staff are looking into the appropriate accountability of PaySchools.

Troubled school board association must be saved, education leaders say

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100308/NEWS02/3080322/Troubled-school-board-association-must-be-saved-education-leaders-say>

The Des Moines Register

By STACI HUPP • shupp@dmreg.com • March 8, 2010

School leaders who send thousands of taxpayer dollars a year to the Iowa Association of School Boards say they stand by the struggling organization.

The Des Moines Sunday Register reported in a copyrighted article that the association is in the midst of a financial crisis and has asked auditors to examine its records for evidence of fraud and criminal activity.

"There's a lot of concern about who fills this void if the Iowa Association of School Boards isn't there," said Winterset Superintendent Mike Wells. "If we have to pay more money to help straighten it out, we'll do that. There have been mistakes made, but it's too important to let it just slip away."

Association officials say they don't have a clear understanding of the agency's financial problems, and they aren't sure whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead.

The statewide group spends millions in taxpayer dollars each year. It receives government grants and collects annual dues from all 361 school districts in Iowa. The dues range from about \$700 to \$10,000, depending on a district's student head count. In return, school board members receive budget expertise, legal advice, lobbying, research, access to low-interest rates on loans and other support.

Wells, who is new to Winterset, said a loan from the school board association's Iowa School Cash Anticipation Program helped cover a budget shortfall triggered by overspending in previous years.

Other school districts have turned to the association to help resolve disputes with superintendents or sell unpopular tax increases, budget cuts or education efforts to the public.

Training is the group's biggest role, school leaders said.

"We put the management of our school systems, which are some of the more complex institutions, we put them in the control of laypeople, who, however well-intentioned, need training to understand how to do their jobs," said Sioux Central Superintendent Dan Frazier, who oversees a district of about 600 students in northwest Iowa. "They're bound by a lot of laws of which they're not fully apprised when they take office."

Some of those services have slipped with the departure of 11 association employees in the past year, school officials said.

School officials also said they were confused by a decision to lay off veteran association employees, including Des Moines school board member Margaret Buckton, "who we thought was integral to their operation," Frazier said.

Buckton, who had been employed by the school board association since 1998, was the organization's associate executive director for public policy. In that role, she was in charge of government relations and finance training for school board members and superintendents.

Frazier said Sioux Central's school board couldn't get the help it needed to win approval of an instructional support levy - a special tax for computer equipment, teacher salaries and other classroom needs.

Frazier said the money would have helped him hire more teachers, but voters rejected it amid worries that it would be spent on new buildings.

"That was probably my biggest disappointment with IASB, how they handled the financial issues when it was something that was vital to us," Frazier said.

Sioux City Superintendent Paul Gausman said the statewide group has been upfront with members about its financial troubles.

"We certainly look forward to them working through whatever process is necessary to get their own house in order so that they can continue to be a high-powered organization to serve school boards," Gausman said.

Russ Wiesley, a Waukee school board member who is president of the school board association's board of directors, said reaction he has received from school officials around the state has been supportive.

"I have had board members call and tell me, 'Whatever you guys need, we're around to help,' " Wiesley said.

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*Anne L. Bryant
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1680 Duke Street*

Alexandria, VA 22314-3493

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fax: 703-548-5613

www.nsba.org

www.centerforpubliceducation.org

Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 1:16 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: Perik

Mary has one year of information - I'll ask if someone can dig up the rest of it. Thanks for your patience - as you can imagine, it's pretty busy here today.

Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:50 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Perik

Megan,

During Friday's meeting, I asked how much money Skills Iowa had spent with Michael Perik's companies in total. I think she mentioned that she had those figures in her notes in her office, but not at hand. Do you or Mary have a breakdown of money spent each year with those companies?

Clark

Search

From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 12:39 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Skills Iowa question

Megan,

One more question: Can you tell me whether work performed by Harry Heilgenthal was improperly billed to the Skills Iowa program?

Also, were there other costs that were improperly billed to the program that you folks know of, or suspect, right now?

Obviously, if the answer to either of those questions is "yes," I'd appreciate whatever details you can provide in terms of cost.

Thanks,

Clark

Search

From: Blair, Darlene
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:59 AM
To: Wiesley, Russ
Subject: FW: IASB - The Des Moines Register

From: Bryant, Anne [mailto:ABryant@nsba.org]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:55 AM
To: execdir
Cc: ALB3
Subject: IASB - The Des Moines Register

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We are looking into an independent review of PaySchools as we know that many of you are a partner in this program.

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Troubled school board association must be saved, education leaders say

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100308/NEWS02/3080322/Troubled-school-board-association-must-be-saved-education-leaders-say>

The Des Moines Register

By STACI HUPP • shupp@dmreg.com • March 8, 2010

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Association officials say they don't have a clear understanding of the agency's financial problems, and they aren't sure whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead.

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School board group faces fraud probe, money crisis

The Des Moines Register

By CLARK KAUFFMAN • ckauffman@dmreg.com • © 2010, Des Moines Register and Tribune Co. • March 7, 2010

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/201003070405/NEWS10/3070341>

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- Staffers not only kept board members in the dark about financial problems but actively misled them about a multimillion-dollar business deal.
- A for-profit company run by an association executive received \$5 million from the organization.

In addition, the group's executive director has acknowledged collecting \$59,000 in extra pay over the past eight months, but says she might have been "set up" by the association's chief financial officer. There are also allegations of conflicts of interest, nepotism, lax financial controls and inadequate board oversight.

Auditors and association officials say they don't yet know the full scope of the agency's problems or whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead. They said they hope to know more when the association's governing board meets this week.

"It makes me feel totally nauseated," said association board president Russ Wiesley, a Waukee school board member. "It's gut-wrenching."

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"I was flabbergasted," Wiesley said. The board didn't accept the offer.

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Schick said Saturday he has committed no wrongdoing but the association cut off his access to records that would prove his innocence.

Board didn't approve major salary increase

Maxine Kilcrease worked for the Heartland Area Education Agency before she became the Iowa School Board Association's executive director last July.

The association agreed to pay her \$210,000. But in September, Kilcrease told Hill, then the board president, that her written contract and her pay didn't reflect an oral agreement that the association would compensate her for payroll taxes and other deductions.

To address that problem, she and Hill revised her written contract so it obligated the association to pay for all payroll taxes, 401(k), flex and other administrative fees. The new contract was signed without the knowledge or consent of the full board, Hill and Kilcrease said Saturday.

Last week, one day after The Des Moines Register asked for a list of association officials and their salaries, Kilcrease reimbursed the association for \$59,000 in pay.

Kilcrease said Saturday that when her salary increase took effect in early October, she immediately realized her pay had been increased too much to offset the payroll deductions.

"It was way too much," she said Saturday. "I just about had a stroke."

Kilcrease told the Register that over the next five months, she tried in vain to get Schick to reduce her pay – a charge that Schick denies.

"If that was true, she had the authority to go above or around me and get her pay corrected," he said. "She was the executive director."

Hill said Friday that he knew nothing of any issues involving Kilcrease's pay or contract.

"I don't know anything about that," he said. "There was never any discussion between Maxine and I about a pay increase, because I never knew it was increased."

But on Saturday, after association officials sent him records documenting his involvement in the matter, Hill said he recalled that Kilcrease had complained about her pay and the two of them signed a new contract to address the problem.

He said Kilcrease told him he had the authority to revise the contract without the involvement of the full board. Kilcrease said it was the other way around – that it was Hill who said the matter didn't need to go before the full board.

Kilcrease said she now feels that Schick's refusal to change her pay might have been part of a "setup." She said she never told Hill or the full board that she was collecting too much pay because she didn't want to bother them.

Because the association is a nonprofit corporation, not a unit of government, its records are unavailable under the Iowa Open Records Law. However, the organization has given the Register access to some financial reports. The newspaper's request for a list of employee salaries will be considered by the association's board of directors next week.

Financial deals for spinoff groups

Association records point to a variety of reasons the organization is in financial trouble.

For years, the nonprofit association has been adding to the services it provides to Iowa schools, and many of those efforts have been spun off into separate business ventures with their own staff and governing boards. The association spent millions of dollars launching and, in some cases, propping up those endeavors.

For example:

- The association created the National School Foundation Association to help schools across the country create their own revenue-generating foundations. The NSFA was a small operation, but it struggled financially. In 2008, the Iowa association forgave a \$491,109 loan to the NSFA.
- The association also created IJUMP, a program that helps Iowa schools get a better price on fuel. At some point, IJUMP mistakenly underbilled the schools almost \$800,000 for the fuel it was providing. Rather than bill the schools the correct amount, IJUMP and the association absorbed the hit.
- The association also funneled millions of dollars into a wholly owned subsidiary called Local Government Services, a company that ran some of the association's business ventures. That for-profit corporation not only received direct cash infusions from the Iowa Association of School Boards, it also paid the salary of Jon Muller, the association's then-chief financial officer. Muller was the president of Local Government Services. His association salary was \$184,582 in 2008, according to IRS records.

Muller says there was nothing improper about any of the transactions, but his successor, Schick, told board members the association had given \$5 million to Local Government Services that wasn't repaid or properly documented as a loan.

The association's auditors say they are still looking into those cash transfers and haven't determined whether they were improperly handled.

Association officials say they're not sure whether Muller's dual roles - or the dual roles played by board members who serve both the association and its affiliates - have created conflicts of interest, but that is also being investigated.

Delagardelle, the deputy director, says the association may have strayed too far from its core mission of helping Iowa school boards conduct their business. By creating business enterprises with their own sources of revenue, the organization grew in size to the point where, financially, it is now one of the largest school board associations in America.

Some of the business ventures the association created to help schools better manage their own finances now appear to have been mismanaged themselves. Compounding the problem is the fact that in recent years the association's auditors allegedly failed to put in writing all of their concerns with the organization's finances.

Delagardelle said the auditors recently explained that they had identified about a dozen concerns and relayed them verbally to top staffers who, apparently, didn't share the information with the board or others.

"That was a surprise to all of us," she said.

She said the association is now implementing a series of policy changes designed to improve oversight and accountability. There are new policies on credit card use, travel expenses and the approval of business plans. There's now a certified public accountant on the board, and the entire board is receiving training on how to read complex financial reports.

Internal whistle-blower complaints - there have been at least four in recent months - are going to be investigated by an independent firm.

There is also a new policy on nepotism, which is a direct response to concerns that many former IASB officials are related. At least six current or former employees are closely related to others within the association, although the organization now has only 38 employees.

For now, though, the association's first order of business is determining the full scope of the financial crisis.

On Saturday, Kilcrease said she had no idea the association had such serious problems when she took over as executive director last summer.

"It feels like I've walked into a tsunami," she said.

Wiesley says that while the association's ability to continue serving Iowa school boards is in jeopardy, he's optimistic.

"It's going to be touch and go for a few months," he said. "But we'll survive and keep going."
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Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:59 AM
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Delagardelle, the deputy director, says the association may have strayed too far from its core mission of helping Iowa school boards conduct their business. By creating business enterprises with their own sources of revenue, the organization grew in size to the point where, financially, it is now one of the largest school board associations in America.

Some of the business ventures the association created to help schools better manage their own finances now appear to have been mismanaged themselves. Compounding the problem is the fact that in recent years the association's auditors allegedly failed to put in writing all of their concerns with the organization's finances.

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From: Blair, Darlene
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:59 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan; Delagardelle, Mary; Smith, LeGrande
Subject: FW: IASB - The Des Moines Register

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The Des Moines Register

By STACI HUPP • shupp@dmreg.com • March 8, 2010

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Association officials say they don't have a clear understanding of the agency's financial problems, and they aren't sure whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead.

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School board group faces fraud probe, money crisis

The Des Moines Register

By CLARK KAUFFMAN • ckauffman@dmreg.com • © 2010, Des Moines Register and Tribune Co. • March 7, 2010

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/201003070405/NEWS10/3070341>

A group funded with taxpayer money is in the midst of a financial crisis and has asked forensic auditors to look for evidence of fraud and criminal activity at the organization.

Two teams of auditors are going through records of the Iowa Association of School Boards. One of them is looking into allegations that:

- Public money was used for a former executive's vacation to Bora Bora.
- Staffers not only kept board members in the dark about financial problems but actively misled them about a multimillion-dollar business deal.
- A for-profit company run by an association executive received \$5 million from the organization.

In addition, the group's executive director has acknowledged collecting \$59,000 in extra pay over the past eight months, but says she might have been "set up" by the association's chief financial officer. There are also allegations of conflicts of interest, nepotism, lax financial controls and inadequate board oversight.

Auditors and association officials say they don't yet know the full scope of the agency's problems or whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead. They said they hope to know more when the association's governing board meets this week.

"It makes me feel totally nauseated," said association board president Russ Wiesley, a Waukee school board member. "It's gut-wrenching."

Board member Jack Hill, who represents the North Scott Community School District, said it's not clear what went wrong.

"Apparently we're out of money and we've got to figure out how we got there," said Hill, who still serves on the board's executive committee.

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Controversies swirl around past CFO

Some of the allegations of wrongdoing center on Kevin Schick, who served as the association's chief financial officer from last summer through early January.

Schick allegedly told board members last year that eBay officials had committed to buying one of the association's business ventures, PaySchools, a national business that manages financial accounts. When the deal failed to materialize, Schick told the board that eBay executives had flown in to close the deal, but changed their minds in the plane after hearing that former association officials were involved in some type of litigation.

In reality, the deal was never seriously considered and there were no such lawsuits, association officials say.

"It was all fabricated," said Mary Delagardelle, the association's deputy executive director.

Schick was fired in January after officials concluded he had lied to the staff and the board about the eBay deal. Association officials say they then found evidence that he had used an Iowa School Board Association credit card to buy airline tickets for a vacation trip to Bora Bora, a tropical island in the South Pacific.

At least some of that \$1,100 expense appears to have been repaid, association officials said.

Board members say Schick once told them he owned an island off the coast of Florida and showed them a photo of it during a board meeting. There are conflicting accounts as to where the idea originated, but late last year someone at the association suggested the organization's top executives hold a retreat on the island, with Schick personally flying them there.

The island retreat was placed on staff members' electronic calendars, but association officials say that was done in jest and no one seriously considered traveling there.

Board records indicate that before he was fired, Schick offered to personally loan the association \$2 million so it could pay for the remodeling of, and the mortgage on, the association's Grand Avenue headquarters in Des Moines. The land and building is assessed at \$2.3 million.

"I was flabbergasted," Wiesley said. The board didn't accept the offer.

Association officials said Schick underwent two background checks before he was hired, but those checks did not uncover a well-publicized lawsuit Schick initiated in 1997.

Schick had sued Drake University, alleging that while he was a student there his mental-health counselor convinced him that he had been raised by a satanic cult. The counselor allegedly prescribed a series of treatment regimens that included sex, a visit to a psychic and a series of ritual chants. The lawsuit was settled out of court.

Schick said Saturday he has committed no wrongdoing but the association cut off his access to records that would prove his innocence.

Board didn't approve major salary increase

Maxine Kilcrease worked for the Heartland Area Education Agency before she became the Iowa School Board Association's executive director last July.

The association agreed to pay her \$210,000. But in September, Kilcrease told Hill, then the board president, that her written contract and her pay didn't reflect an oral agreement that the association would compensate her for payroll taxes and other deductions.

To address that problem, she and Hill revised her written contract so it obligated the association to pay for all payroll taxes, 401(k), flex and other administrative fees. The new contract was signed without the knowledge or consent of the full board, Hill and Kilcrease said Saturday.

Last week, one day after The Des Moines Register asked for a list of association officials and their salaries, Kilcrease reimbursed the association for \$59,000 in pay.

Kilcrease said Saturday that when her salary increase took effect in early October, she immediately realized her pay had been increased too much to offset the payroll deductions.

"It was way too much," she said Saturday. "I just about had a stroke."

Kilcrease told the Register that over the next five months, she tried in vain to get Schick to reduce her pay - a charge that Schick denies.

"If that was true, she had the authority to go above or around me and get her pay corrected," he said. "She was the executive director."

Hill said Friday that he knew nothing of any issues involving Kilcrease's pay or contract.

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Association officials said Schick underwent two background checks before he was hired, but those checks did not uncover a well-publicized lawsuit Schick initiated in 1997.

Schick had sued Drake University, alleging that while he was a student there his mental-health counselor convinced him that he had been raised by a satanic cult. The counselor allegedly prescribed a series of treatment regimens that included sex, a visit to a psychic and a series of ritual chants. The lawsuit was settled out of court.

Schick said Saturday he has committed no wrongdoing but the association cut off his access to records that would prove his innocence.

Board didn't approve major salary increase

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The association agreed to pay her \$210,000. But in September, Kilcrease told Hill, then the board president, that her written contract and her pay didn't reflect an oral agreement that the association would compensate her for payroll taxes and other deductions.

To address that problem, she and Hill revised her written contract so it obligated the association to pay for all payroll taxes, 401(k), flex and other administrative fees. The new contract was signed without the knowledge or consent of the full board, Hill and Kilcrease said Saturday.

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Kilcrease said Saturday that when her salary increase took effect in early October, she immediately realized her pay had been increased too much to offset the payroll deductions.

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Association records point to a variety of reasons the organization is in financial trouble.

For years, the nonprofit association has been adding to the services it provides to Iowa schools, and many of those efforts have been spun off into separate business ventures with their own staff and governing boards. The association spent millions of dollars launching and, in some cases, propping up those endeavors.

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Muller says there was nothing improper about any of the transactions, but his successor, Schick, told board members the association had given \$5 million to Local Government Services that wasn't repaid or properly documented as a loan.

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Delagardelle, the deputy director, says the association may have strayed too far from its core mission of helping Iowa school boards conduct their business. By creating business enterprises with their own sources of revenue, the organization grew in size to the point where, financially, it is now one of the largest school board associations in America.

Some of the business ventures the association created to help schools better manage their own finances now appear to have been mismanaged themselves. Compounding the problem is the fact that in recent years the association's auditors allegedly failed to put in writing all of their concerns with the organization's finances.

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From: Blair, Darlene
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:59 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan; Delagardelle, Mary; Smith, LeGrande
Subject: FW: IASB - The Des Moines Register

From: Bryant, Anne [mailto:ABryant@nsba.org]
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We are looking into an independent review of PaySchools as we know that many of you are a partner in this program.

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Here are the full articles and links from yesterday's and today's *The Des Moines Register* on IASB. Anne and the staff are looking into the appropriate accountability of PaySchools.

Troubled school board association must be saved, education leaders say

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The Des Moines Register

By STACI HUPP • shupp@dmreg.com • March 8, 2010

School leaders who send thousands of taxpayer dollars a year to the Iowa Association of School Boards say they stand by the struggling organization.

The Des Moines Sunday Register reported in a copyrighted article that the association is in the midst of a financial crisis and has asked auditors to examine its records for evidence of fraud and criminal activity.

"There's a lot of concern about who fills this void if the Iowa Association of School Boards isn't there," said Winterset Superintendent Mike Wells. "If we have to pay more money to help straighten it out, we'll do that. There have been mistakes made, but it's too important to let it just slip away."

Association officials say they don't have a clear understanding of the agency's financial problems, and they aren't sure whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead.

The statewide group spends millions in taxpayer dollars each year. It receives government grants and collects annual dues from all 361 school districts in Iowa. The dues range from about \$700 to \$10,000, depending on a district's student head count. In return, school board members receive budget expertise, legal advice, lobbying, research, access to low-interest rates on loans and other support.

Wells, who is new to Winterset, said a loan from the school board association's Iowa School Cash Anticipation Program helped cover a budget shortfall triggered by overspending in previous years.

Other school districts have turned to the association to help resolve disputes with superintendents or sell unpopular tax increases, budget cuts or education efforts to the public.

Training is the group's biggest role, school leaders said.

"We put the management of our school systems, which are some of the more complex institutions, we put them in the control of laypeople, who, however well-intentioned, need training to understand how to do their jobs," said Sioux Central Superintendent Dan Frazier, who oversees a district of about 600 students in northwest Iowa. "They're bound by a lot of laws of which they're not fully apprised when they take office."

Some of those services have slipped with the departure of 11 association employees in the past year, school officials said.

School officials also said they were confused by a decision to lay off veteran association employees, including Des Moines school board member Margaret Buckton, "who we thought was integral to their operation," Frazier said.

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Sioux City Superintendent Paul Gausman said the statewide group has been upfront with members about its financial troubles.

"We certainly look forward to them working through whatever process is necessary to get their own house in order so that they can continue to be a high-powered organization to serve school boards," Gausman said.

Russ Wiesley, a Waukee school board member who is president of the school board association's board of directors, said reaction he has received from school officials around the state has been supportive.

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School board group faces fraud probe, money crisis

The Des Moines Register

By CLARK KAUFFMAN • ckauffman@dmreg.com • © 2010, Des Moines Register and Tribune Co. • March 7, 2010

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/201003070405/NEWS10/3070341>

A group funded with taxpayer money is in the midst of a financial crisis and has asked forensic auditors to look for evidence of fraud and criminal activity at the organization.

Two teams of auditors are going through records of the Iowa Association of School Boards. One of them is looking into allegations that:

- Public money was used for a former executive's vacation to Bora Bora.
- Staffers not only kept board members in the dark about financial problems but actively misled them about a multimillion-dollar business deal.
- A for-profit company run by an association executive received \$5 million from the organization.

In addition, the group's executive director has acknowledged collecting \$59,000 in extra pay over the past eight months, but says she might have been "set up" by the association's chief financial officer. There are also allegations of conflicts of interest, nepotism, lax financial controls and inadequate board oversight.

Auditors and association officials say they don't yet know the full scope of the agency's problems or whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead. They said they hope to know more when the association's governing board meets this week.

"It makes me feel totally nauseated," said association board president Russ Wiesley, a Waukee school board member. "It's gut-wrenching."

Board member Jack Hill, who represents the North Scott Community School District, said it's not clear what went wrong.

"Apparently we're out of money and we've got to figure out how we got there," said Hill, who still serves on the board's executive committee.

The association collects annual dues, ranging from \$726 to \$10,366, from all of Iowa's 361 public school districts. It spends at least \$2.4 million worth of government grants each year, and it collects millions more from conferences, consulting and cash-management programs funded by schools. Its mission is to improve public education through training and research that help Iowa's locally elected school boards.

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School board group faces fraud probe, money crisis

The Des Moines Register

By CLARK KAUFFMAN • ckauffman@dmreg.com • © 2010, Des Moines Register and Tribune Co. • March 7, 2010

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/201003070405/NEWS10/3070341>

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In addition, the group's executive director has acknowledged collecting \$59,000 in extra pay over the past eight months, but says she might have been "set up" by the association's chief financial officer. There are also allegations of conflicts of interest, nepotism, lax financial controls and inadequate board oversight.

Auditors and association officials say they don't yet know the full scope of the agency's problems or whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead. They said they hope to know more when the association's governing board meets this week.

"It makes me feel totally nauseated," said association board president Russ Wiesley, a Waukee school board member. "It's gut-wrenching."

Board member Jack Hill, who represents the North Scott Community School District, said it's not clear what went wrong.

"Apparently we're out of money and we've got to figure out how we got there," said Hill, who still serves on the board's executive committee.

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Some of the allegations of wrongdoing center on Kevin Schick, who served as the association's chief financial officer from last summer through early January.

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To address that problem, she and Hill revised her written contract so it obligated the association to pay for all payroll taxes, 401(k), flex and other administrative fees. The new contract was signed without the knowledge or consent of the full board, Hill and Kilcrease said Saturday.

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Search

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To: execdír
Cc: ALB3
Subject: IASB - The Des Moines Register

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We are looking into an independent review of PaySchools as we know that many of you are a partner in this program.

Anne

Here are the full articles and links from yesterday's and today's *The Des Moines Register* on IASB. Anne and the staff are looking into the appropriate accountability of PaySchools.

Troubled school board association must be saved, education leaders say

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100308/NEWS02/3080322/Troubled-school-board-association-must-be-saved-education-leaders-say>

The Des Moines Register

By STACI HUPP • shupp@dmreg.com • March 8, 2010

School leaders who send thousands of taxpayer dollars a year to the Iowa Association of School Boards say they stand by the struggling organization.

The Des Moines Sunday Register reported in a copyrighted article that the association is in the midst of a financial crisis and has asked auditors to examine its records for evidence of fraud and criminal activity.

"There's a lot of concern about who fills this void if the Iowa Association of School Boards isn't there," said Winterset Superintendent Mike Wells. "If we have to pay more money to help straighten it out, we'll do that. There have been mistakes made, but it's too important to let it just slip away."

Association officials say they don't have a clear understanding of the agency's financial problems, and they aren't sure whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead.

The statewide group spends millions in taxpayer dollars each year. It receives government grants and collects annual dues from all 361 school districts in Iowa. The dues range from about \$700 to \$10,000, depending on a district's student head count. In return, school board members receive budget expertise, legal advice, lobbying, research, access to low-interest rates on loans and other support.

Wells, who is new to Winterset, said a loan from the school board association's Iowa School Cash Anticipation Program helped cover a budget shortfall triggered by overspending in previous years.

Other school districts have turned to the association to help resolve disputes with superintendents or sell unpopular tax increases, budget cuts or education efforts to the public.

Training is the group's biggest role, school leaders said.

"We put the management of our school systems, which are some of the more complex institutions, we put them in the control of laypeople, who, however well-intentioned, need training to understand how to do their jobs," said Sioux Central Superintendent Dan Frazier, who oversees a district of about 600 students in northwest Iowa. "They're bound by a lot of laws of which they're not fully apprised when they take office."

Some of those services have slipped with the departure of 11 association employees in the past year, school officials said.

School officials also said they were confused by a decision to lay off veteran association employees, including Des Moines school board member Margaret Buckton, "who we thought was integral to their operation," Frazier said.

Buckton, who had been employed by the school board association since 1998, was the organization's associate executive director for public policy. In that role, she was in charge of government relations and finance training for school board members and superintendents.

Frazier said Sioux Central's school board couldn't get the help it needed to win approval of an instructional support levy - a special tax for computer equipment, teacher salaries and other classroom needs.

Frazier said the money would have helped him hire more teachers, but voters rejected it amid worries that it would be spent on new buildings.

"That was probably my biggest disappointment with IASB, how they handled the financial issues when it was something that was vital to us," Frazier said.

Sioux City Superintendent Paul Gausman said the statewide group has been upfront with members about its financial troubles.

"We certainly look forward to them working through whatever process is necessary to get their own house in order so that they can continue to be a high-powered organization to serve school boards," Gausman said.

Russ Wiesley, a Waukee school board member who is president of the school board association's board of directors, said reaction he has received from school officials around the state has been supportive.

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The Des Moines Register

By STACI HUPP • shupp@dmreg.com • March 8, 2010

School leaders who send thousands of taxpayer dollars a year to the Iowa Association of School Boards say they stand by the struggling organization.

The Des Moines Sunday Register reported in a copyrighted article that the association is in the midst of a financial crisis and has asked auditors to examine its records for evidence of fraud and criminal activity.

"There's a lot of concern about who fills this void if the Iowa Association of School Boards isn't there," said Winterset Superintendent Mike Wells. "If we have to pay more money to help straighten it out, we'll do that. There have been mistakes made, but it's too important to let it just slip away."

Association officials say they don't have a clear understanding of the agency's financial problems, and they aren't sure whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead.

The statewide group spends millions in taxpayer dollars each year. It receives government grants and collects annual dues from all 361 school districts in Iowa. The dues range from about \$700 to \$10,000, depending on a district's student head count. In return, school board members receive budget expertise, legal advice, lobbying, research, access to low-interest rates on loans and other support.

Wells, who is new to Winterset, said a loan from the school board association's Iowa School Cash Anticipation Program helped cover a budget shortfall triggered by overspending in previous years.

Other school districts have turned to the association to help resolve disputes with superintendents or sell unpopular tax increases, budget cuts or education efforts to the public.

Training is the group's biggest role, school leaders said.

"We put the management of our school systems, which are some of the more complex institutions, we put them in the control of laypeople, who, however well-intentioned, need training to understand how to do their jobs," said Sioux Central Superintendent Dan Frazier, who oversees a district of about 600 students in northwest Iowa. "They're bound by a lot of laws of which they're not fully apprised when they take office."

Some of those services have slipped with the departure of 11 association employees in the past year, school officials said.

School officials also said they were confused by a decision to lay off veteran association employees, including Des Moines school board member Margaret Buckton, "who we thought was integral to their operation," Frazier said.

Buckton, who had been employed by the school board association since 1998, was the organization's associate executive director for public policy. In that role, she was in charge of government relations and finance training for school board members and superintendents.

Frazier said Sioux Central's school board couldn't get the help it needed to win approval of an instructional support levy - a special tax for computer equipment, teacher salaries and other classroom needs.

Frazier said the money would have helped him hire more teachers, but voters rejected it amid worries that it would be spent on new buildings.

"That was probably my biggest disappointment with IASB, how they handled the financial issues when it was something that was vital to us," Frazier said.

Sioux City Superintendent Paul Gausman said the statewide group has been upfront with members about its financial troubles.

"We certainly look forward to them working through whatever process is necessary to get their own house in order so that they can continue to be a high-powered organization to serve school boards," Gausman said.

Russ Wiesley, a Waukee school board member who is president of the school board association's board of directors, said reaction he has received from school officials around the state has been supportive.

"I have had board members call and tell me, 'Whatever you guys need, we're around to help,' " Wiesley said.

What the executive director's contract says

Maxine Kilcrease's original three-year contract to serve as the executive director of the Iowa Association of School Boards includes these provisions:

- An annual salary of \$210,000.
- A 5 percent retirement-plan contribution to a 401(k) plan.
- "Premium payments" for family medical and hospital insurance.
- Four weeks of paid vacation each year, plus 10 paid holidays, two personal-leave days and 15 days of sick leave.
- Unlimited reimbursement for travel and entertainment expenses related to IASB business.
- Private club dues and expenses at the Des Moines Club.
- Rotary Club dues and expenses.
- If Kilcrease is terminated for virtually any reason other than moral turpitude, illegal drug use or chronic drunkenness, she is entitled to collect the balance of the three-year contract's compensation.

Sometime after November 2009, the contract was changed to stipulate that the association would pay "all payroll taxes, 401(k), flex and other administrative fees."

Although that change resulted in a significant increase in pay for Kilcrease, the new contract was not approved by the full board. The document itself was left undated, with no mention of it being a revised version of a previous agreement.

School board group faces fraud probe, money crisis

The Des Moines Register

By CLARK KAUFFMAN • ckauffman@dmreg.com • © 2010, Des Moines Register and Tribune Co. • March 7, 2010

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/201003070405/NEWS10/3070341>

A group funded with taxpayer money is in the midst of a financial crisis and has asked forensic auditors to look for evidence of fraud and criminal activity at the organization.

Two teams of auditors are going through records of the Iowa Association of School Boards. One of them is looking into allegations that:

- Public money was used for a former executive's vacation to Bora Bora.

- Staffers not only kept board members in the dark about financial problems but actively misled them about a multimillion-dollar business deal.
- A for-profit company run by an association executive received \$5 million from the organization.

In addition, the group's executive director has acknowledged collecting \$59,000 in extra pay over the past eight months, but says she might have been "set up" by the association's chief financial officer. There are also allegations of conflicts of interest, nepotism, lax financial controls and inadequate board oversight.

Auditors and association officials say they don't yet know the full scope of the agency's problems or whether it will be able to make payroll in the weeks and months ahead. They said they hope to know more when the association's governing board meets this week.

"It makes me feel totally nauseated," said association board president Russ Wiesley, a Waukee school board member. "It's gut-wrenching."

Board member Jack Hill, who represents the North Scott Community School District, said it's not clear what went wrong.

"Apparently we're out of money and we've got to figure out how we got there," said Hill, who still serves on the board's executive committee.

The association collects annual dues, ranging from \$726 to \$10,366, from all of Iowa's 361 public school districts. It spends at least \$2.4 million worth of government grants each year, and it collects millions more from conferences, consulting and cash-management programs funded by schools. Its mission is to improve public education through training and research that help Iowa's locally elected school boards.

In recent years, though, the association has expanded to include a number of business ventures that serve schools in as many as 40 states. Some of those business ventures don't relate directly to the work of school boards, and some are tied to the association's current financial crisis.

Controversies swirl around past CFO

Some of the allegations of wrongdoing center on Kevin Schick, who served as the association's chief financial officer from last summer through early January.

Schick allegedly told board members last year that eBay officials had committed to buying one of the association's business ventures, PaySchools, a national business that manages financial accounts. When the deal failed to materialize, Schick told the board that eBay executives had flown in to close the deal, but changed their minds in the plane after hearing that former association officials were involved in some type of litigation.

In reality, the deal was never seriously considered and there were no such lawsuits, association officials say.

"It was all fabricated," said Mary Delagardelle, the association's deputy executive director.

Schick was fired in January after officials concluded he had lied to the staff and the board about the eBay deal. Association officials say they then found evidence that he had used an Iowa School Board Association credit card to buy airline tickets for a vacation trip to Bora Bora, a tropical island in the South Pacific.

At least some of that \$1,100 expense appears to have been repaid, association officials said.

Board members say Schick once told them he owned an island off the coast of Florida and showed them a photo of it during a board meeting. There are conflicting accounts as to where the idea originated, but late last year someone at the association suggested the organization's top executives hold a retreat on the island, with Schick personally flying them there.

The island retreat was placed on staff members' electronic calendars, but association officials say that was done in jest and no one seriously considered traveling there.

Board records indicate that before he was fired, Schick offered to personally loan the association \$2 million so it could pay for the remodeling of, and the mortgage on, the association's Grand Avenue headquarters in Des Moines. The land and building is assessed at \$2.3 million.

"I was flabbergasted," Wiesley said. The board didn't accept the offer.

Association officials said Schick underwent two background checks before he was hired, but those checks did not uncover a well-publicized lawsuit Schick initiated in 1997.

Schick had sued Drake University, alleging that while he was a student there his mental-health counselor convinced him that he had been raised by a satanic cult. The counselor allegedly prescribed a series of treatment regimens that included sex, a visit to a psychic and a series of ritual chants. The lawsuit was settled out of court.

Schick said Saturday he has committed no wrongdoing but the association cut off his access to records that would prove his innocence.

Board didn't approve major salary increase

Maxine Kilcrease worked for the Heartland Area Education Agency before she became the Iowa School Board Association's executive director last July.

The association agreed to pay her \$210,000. But in September, Kilcrease told Hill, then the board president, that her written contract and her pay didn't reflect an oral agreement that the association would compensate her for payroll taxes and other deductions.

To address that problem, she and Hill revised her written contract so it obligated the association to pay for all payroll taxes, 401(k), flex and other administrative fees. The new contract was signed without the knowledge or consent of the full board, Hill and Kilcrease said Saturday.

Last week, one day after The Des Moines Register asked for a list of association officials and their salaries, Kilcrease reimbursed the association for \$59,000 in pay.

Kilcrease said Saturday that when her salary increase took effect in early October, she immediately realized her pay had been increased too much to offset the payroll deductions.

"It was way too much," she said Saturday. "I just about had a stroke."

Kilcrease told the Register that over the next five months, she tried in vain to get Schick to reduce her pay - a charge that Schick denies.

"If that was true, she had the authority to go above or around me and get her pay corrected," he said. "She was the executive director."

Hill said Friday that he knew nothing of any issues involving Kilcrease's pay or contract.

"I don't know anything about that," he said. "There was never any discussion between Maxine and I about a pay increase, because I never knew it was increased."

But on Saturday, after association officials sent him records documenting his involvement in the matter, Hill said he recalled that Kilcrease had complained about her pay and the two of them signed a new contract to address the problem.

He said Kilcrease told him he had the authority to revise the contract without the involvement of the full board. Kilcrease said it was the other way around - that it was Hill who said the matter didn't need to go before the full board.

Kilcrease said she now feels that Schick's refusal to change her pay might have been part of a "setup." She said she never told Hill or the full board that she was collecting too much pay because she didn't want to bother them.

Because the association is a nonprofit corporation, not a unit of government, its records are unavailable under the Iowa Open Records Law. However, the organization has given the Register access to some financial reports. The newspaper's request for a list of employee salaries will be considered by the association's board of directors next week.

Financial deals for spinoff groups

Association records point to a variety of reasons the organization is in financial trouble.

For years, the nonprofit association has been adding to the services it provides to Iowa schools, and many of those efforts have been spun off into separate business ventures with their own staff and governing boards. The association spent millions of dollars launching and, in some cases, propping up those endeavors.

For example:

- The association created the National School Foundation Association to help schools across the country create their own revenue-generating foundations. The NSFA was a small operation, but it struggled financially. In 2008, the Iowa association forgave a \$491,109 loan to the NSFA.

- The association also created IJUMP, a program that helps Iowa schools get a better price on fuel. At some point, IJUMP mistakenly underbilled the schools almost \$800,000 for the fuel it was providing. Rather than bill the schools the correct amount, IJUMP and the association absorbed the hit.
- The association also funneled millions of dollars into a wholly owned subsidiary called Local Government Services, a company that ran some of the association's business ventures. That for-profit corporation not only received direct cash infusions from the Iowa Association of School Boards, it also paid the salary of Jon Muller, the association's then-chief financial officer. Muller was the president of Local Government Services. His association salary was \$184,582 in 2008, according to IRS records.

Muller says there was nothing improper about any of the transactions, but his successor, Schick, told board members the association had given \$5 million to Local Government Services that wasn't repaid or properly documented as a loan.

The association's auditors say they are still looking into those cash transfers and haven't determined whether they were improperly handled.

Association officials say they're not sure whether Muller's dual roles - or the dual roles played by board members who serve both the association and its affiliates - have created conflicts of interest, but that is also being investigated.

Delagardelle, the deputy director, says the association may have strayed too far from its core mission of helping Iowa school boards conduct their business. By creating business enterprises with their own sources of revenue, the organization grew in size to the point where, financially, it is now one of the largest school board associations in America.

Some of the business ventures the association created to help schools better manage their own finances now appear to have been mismanaged themselves. Compounding the problem is the fact that in recent years the association's auditors allegedly failed to put in writing all of their concerns with the organization's finances.

Delagardelle said the auditors recently explained that they had identified about a dozen concerns and relayed them verbally to top staffers who, apparently, didn't share the information with the board or others.

"That was a surprise to all of us," she said.

She said the association is now implementing a series of policy changes designed to improve oversight and accountability. There are new policies on credit card use, travel expenses and the approval of business plans. There's now a certified public accountant on the board, and the entire board is receiving training on how to read complex financial reports.

Internal whistle-blower complaints - there have been at least four in recent months - are going to be investigated by an independent firm.

There is also a new policy on nepotism, which is a direct response to concerns that many former IASB officials are related. At least six current or former employees are closely related to others within the association, although the organization now has only 38 employees.

For now, though, the association's first order of business is determining the full scope of the financial crisis.

On Saturday, Kilcrease said she had no idea the association had such serious problems when she took over as executive director last summer.

"It feels like I've walked into a tsunami," she said.

Wiesley says that while the association's ability to continue serving Iowa school boards is in jeopardy, he's optimistic.

"It's going to be touch and go for a few months," he said. "But we'll survive and keep going."
" Wiesley said.

Side Bar:

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Anne L. Bryant
Executive Director
National School Boards Association
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Alexandria, VA 22314-3493
phone: 703-838-6700
fax: 703-548-5613
www.nsba.org
www.centerforpubliceducation.org

Search

From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:50 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Perik

Megan,

During Friday's meeting, I asked how much money Skills Iowa had spent with Michael Perik's companies in total. I think she mentioned that she had those figures in her notes in her office, but not at hand. Do you or Mary have a breakdown of money spent each year with those companies?

Clark

Search

From: Blair, Darlene
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 8:18 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: Delagardelle, Mary; Smith, LeGrande
Subject: RE: Documents
Attachments: Employment Agreement-Revised.pdf

Megan
Attached is a PDF of Maxine's revised employment agreement.

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 7:23 AM
To: Blair, Darlene
Cc: Kilcrease, Maxine; Delagardelle, Mary; Smith, LeGrande
Subject: FW: Documents

Darlene, can you please find this for me Monday? Thanks.

Megan

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Sat 3/6/2010 4:42 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Documents

Megan,

A page is missing from my version of the PDF of the revised contract. (It's the page that deals with Maxine's club memberships.)
On Monday, could you get me a complete copy of this revised contract?

Thanks,

Clark

On 3/6/10 10:52 AM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Here are the contracts, Clark... will call to make sure you get this.

From: Kilcrease, Maxine
Sent: Sat 3/6/2010 10:09 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: FW: Documents

Maxine Kilcrease, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Iowa Association of School Boards

6000 Grand Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50312-1411

515.247.7042

www.ia-sb.org <<http://www.ia-sb.org/>><<http://www.ia-sb.org/>>

mkilcrease@ia-sb.org

From: Delagardelle, Mary

Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 12:56 AM

To: Kilcrease, Maxine

Subject: Documents

Here are copies of the documents we were able to pull tonight. Let us know if these are what you were referring to. Thought you might want to have them in front of you when Clark calls tomorrow. Mary

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Subject: RE: Memo to the Field - Draft

Yes -- I agree. What goes around comes around and it's only fair that we provide links to that story as well. Good thinking on your part. MD

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Mary, not that you don't have enough to think about, but want to run something by you. In the daily compilation of education news clips that we send to the field, we often include somewhat negative stories about districts - I think it's only fair that we include Clark's story on us... but I will also link to our "expanded details" memo... does that seem appropriate to you? Thanks.

Megan

From: Delagardelle, Mary
Sent: Sun 3/7/2010 4:51 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: RE: Memo to the Field - Draft

I still haven't heard from Beth Grob. . . I'll let you know as soon as I do. I forwarded that last string of emails to the correct address so hopefully she'll see it and maybe respond via email. Thanks again for all you are doing. See you tomorrow. Mary

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 4:47 PM
To: Delagardelle, Mary
Subject: RE: Memo to the Field - Draft

Thanks for the quick feedback, Mary!

M

From: Delagardelle, Mary
Sent: Sun 3/7/2010 4:42 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan; Kilcrease, Maxine; Smith, LeGrande; Gannon, Mary
Cc: Wiesley, Russ; russwiesley@mac.com
Subject: RE: Memo to the Field - Draft

Megan, I think this looks really good. Mary

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 4:19 PM
To: Kilcrease, Maxine; Delagardelle, Mary; Smith, LeGrande; Gannon, Mary
Cc: Wiesley, Russ; russwiesley@mac.com
Subject: Memo to the Field - Draft

Hi all-

The following is my draft of a message to send out with our weekly Monday message to the field; we can post this to the web, too. Please give me feedback yet tonight. I'll be sending talking points next, for the board and staff, but they will be very similar to this. Thanks. (Russ, I can't remember if you wanted this to go to the whole executive committee, but please run it past them if you like.)

Megan

IASB Expands Upon Media Coverage of Financial Situation

The Iowa Association of School Boards understands some people may have questions following news coverage of our financial issues. The IASB board and staff would like to share the following facts with members and the public. Also, all members are encouraged to call or e-mail with questions, at (800) 795-4272 or ec@ia-sb.org.

- IASB is aware that it has a significant cash flow issue and has been working for at least the past eight months to evaluate the situation and find solutions.
- IASB, on its own accord, initiated hiring a financial firm to review the association's financial condition. The IASB board expects an initial report from LWBj Financial this week. LWBj is also helping the association create a work-out plan to move toward financial health.
- We are working to handle this situation, but we also will keep the energy of our expert staff focused on our core mission, which is serving school districts through training and services to improve student achievement.
- IASB vows to continue its work with integrity. IASB has served school districts and school boards for over 60 years, and its work includes: education research; legislative advocacy; school policy manual review; legal advice; financial expertise; school board training on the board's roles and responsibilities, making data-driven decisions, finance, employment issues, compliance with state and federal laws, and more. Please visit www.ia-sb.org for more information about the organization.

The IASB board and leadership have already taken several actions over the past several months to deal with the financial situation. They have done the following:

- Implemented newly revised policies on credit card use, travel expenses and nepotism.
- Adopted a new requirement that all business partners write extensive business plans; a new Business Advisory Council will evaluate each business service annually.
- Restructured some business services, such as the Iowa Construction Advocate Team (ICAT).
- Cut the budget over the past year, including staff cuts, furlough days and other cost-saving measures.
- Changed vendors and processes to save money on office and building supplies, materials and printing.
- The IASB board has received additional training on fiduciary responsibility and has been provided information regarding effective practices for oversight of non-profit financial matters.
- The association staff have relocated to one side of the building, and plans to lease out the other side to generate additional revenue. We also intend to rework space on the lower level to make it available for leasing space for IASB events and outside groups.
- The board will create a new Financial Advisory Committee that will have at least one business manager, one board member, the executive director and several experts in the area of finance to manage the transition back to financial health.

We want to reiterate that the ISCAP, ISJIT and Safety Group programs are separate, independent entities and are not affected by IASB's issues.

IASB is committed to the focus on the core mission. We expect to be held accountable, and we are facing extreme challenges, but we will work through this to ensure the vibrant future of this critical organization. We thank our members for their continued support and input.

For the Monday Note, I'd also include:

- ISCAP Webinar was this morning - it will be online
- Last Legislative Lobby Day is Tuesday
- Iowa Core workshops are out in the state - a new round starts up next week, so sign up

---END---

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- We are working to handle this situation, but we also will keep the energy of our expert staff focused on our core mission, which is serving school districts through training and services to improve student achievement.
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Maxine Kilcrease, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Iowa Association of School Boards

6000 Grand Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50312-141

515.247.7042

www.ia-sb.org <<http://www.ia-sb.org>><<http://www.ia-sb.org>>

mkilcrease@ia-sb.org

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Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 12:56 AM
To: Kilcrease, Maxine
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From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 10:49 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Google Alert - "Des Moines" school

Google News Alert for: "Des Moines" school

Culver getting some unexpected opposition

Dubuque Telegraph Herald

BY COURTNEY BLANCHARD TH STAFF WRITER Jonathan Narcisse, a former **Des Moines School** Board member and publisher, announced last week he would challenge Gov. ...

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School lunch program questioned

Burlington Hawk Eye

By CLARK KAUFFMAN **DES MOINES** -- An obscure corporation that helps buy millions of dollars' worth of food for Iowa's **school** lunch program allegedly has ...

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From: Delagardelle, Mary
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:42 AM
To: Grimley, Lee Ann
Cc: 'geezhill@aol.com'; Morain, Williams; Wiesley, Russ
Subject: RE: This is information I would like the whole board to see Sunday Morning

Hi Lee Ann,

I'm in the office with Megan and we have read the note you want to go to the whole board. We think it looks great and we only have one suggestion. . . . you might want to consider sending this from the whole executive committee rather than just from you. You make the point that the "executive committee has been working hard to learn the truth" and we agree that it is critically important for the board to see you as a united team working together with us and with the rest of the board to lead us through this challenge. We think you have set a good "charge" to the group with good reminders about their role.

One more thought – we really appreciate your comments about working together. We have financial issues and now we have an image issue and the only way we'll get through this is if we work together, staff and board, and make sure we don't let the "chaos" create divisions among us. That's not really feedback on your memo but it seems like that's what you are trying to communicate and we think that's a good idea. At any rate, that's our take. Hope you have a good day. Take care. Mary

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My Fellow IASB Board Members,

I feel that I have a fiduciary duty to the organization to give you information that will help you deal with the story in the Des Moines Register.

My advice to you is: fall back on the training you got from Mary Jane Vens at your very first IASB orientation meeting. Use data to make decisions, know that our authority comes from working as a board, and that we govern through policy.

Many of you received Leadership Academy Training about dealing with requests from the media and others. I recommend that you refer back to the training, which can be summarized with - only reply with information you know to be true and you can release. You will be receiving information that was discovered during our audit. Together, as a group, **at the board table**, we will work through this. We're going to get a lot of information in a very short period of time and we're all going to need to be at the meeting prepared to learn.

You also need to know that members of the executive committee have been working really hard to learn the truth. We've also been pouring over our Board Policy book, our minutes, our recent audits, and our IASB email to put the pieces of a very difficult puzzle together. We're trying to follow our own rules from our governance handbook, and we're trying to make sure that decisions are made only after people have time to come together around a table and discuss it face to face. Right now we're trying to preserve the integrity of the process.

So when somebody asks you about this as you're standing in line for breakfast at HyVee, please fall back on the advice you give new and fellow local board members. It's perfectly OK to say that we have a board meeting this week and that you'll hear from directly from our auditors and our financial advisors.

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Now that he has made me look like a liar across the entire state of Iowa. No way to describe what I am experiencing. He obviously didn't read Darlene's memo to Jack which was dated or look at Jack's signature. It makes me look like a completely unethical person. And I, of course, have no voice to set the record straight.

I want to forward the email exchange to staff between Jack and me yesterday. Maybe at least they would believe me.

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To: Forgrave, Megan; Blair, Darlene
Cc: Delagardelle, Mary; Smith, LeGrande
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Sent: Sat 3/6/2010 4:42 PM
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Subject: Re: Documents

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To: Blair, Darlene
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Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 2:59 AM
To: Delagardelle, Mary
Cc: geezhill@aol.com; Morain, Williams; Wiesley, Russ
Subject: This is information I would like the whole board to see Sunday Morning

My Fellow IASB Board Members:

I feel that I have a fiduciary duty to the organization to give you information that will help you deal with the story in the Des Moines Register.

My advice to you is: fall back on the training you got from Mary Jane Vens at your very first IASB orientation meeting. Use data to make decisions, know that our authority comes from working as a board, and that we govern through policy.

Many of you received Leadership Academy Training about dealing with requests from the media and others. I recommend that you refer back to the training, which can be summarized with - only reply with information you know to be true and you can release. You will be receiving information that was discovered during our audit. Together, as a group, **at the board table**, we will work through this. We're going to get a lot of information in a very short period of time and we're all going to need to be at the meeting prepared to learn.

You also need to know that members of the executive committee have been working really hard to learn the truth. We've also been pouring over our Board Policy book, our minutes, our recent audits, and our IASB email to put the pieces of a very difficult puzzle together. We're trying to follow our own rules from our governance handbook, and we're trying to make sure that decisions are made only after people have time to come together around a table and discuss it face to face. Right now we're trying to preserve the integrity of the process.

So when somebody asks you about this as you're standing in line for breakfast at HyVee, please fall back on the advice you give new and fellow local board members. It's perfectly OK to say that we have a board meeting this week and that you'll hear from directly from our auditors and our financial advisors.

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Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 12:17 PM
To: Grimley, Lee Ann
Cc: Wiesley, Russ
Subject: RE: Salary Story Revisited

I'm so sorry if I sent something to someone who shouldn't receive it -- I take complete responsibility for that. I just sent it to the people who have been involved in the recent EC phone calls. Russ's direction to me was to send it to the executive committee so it was me that messed up. I really apologize! As for the deadline, your feedback will be welcome any time. We mostly just need to know how much background information to provide the board members so they understand what they are reading. Russ is at work so I'm going to call him later this afternoon, after I've heard back from everyone, and then he and I will send it on to the board so they have a chance to read it before the article tomorrow morning. In other words, it would be great if you could send any thoughts about what else the board needs to know within the next few hours. Let me know if you have questions -- do you want me to give you a call? Thanks Lee Ann. Mary

From: Grimley, Lee Ann
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 11:58 AM
To: Delagardelle, Mary
Cc: Wiesley, Russ
Subject: Re: Salary Story Revisited

Mary,

Per board policy, Scott is not a member of the Executive Committee. That's spelled out in the Bylaws.

I need to think about my comments. What is my deadline to reply?

Lee Ann

----- Original Message -----

From: Delagardelle, Mary
To: Scott Hansen (E-mail) ; Wiesley, Russ ; geezhill@aol.com ; grimleys@netins.net ; anplsurg@grm.net
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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 10:27 AM
To: ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com
Cc: Kilcrease, Maxine; geezhill@aol.com; Wiesley, Russ; Delagardelle, Mary
Subject: FW: Salary Story Revisited

Clark-

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Megan

From: Kilcrease, Maxine

Sent: Sat 3/6/2010 9:36 AM

To: geezhill@aol.com; Delagardelle, Mary; Forgrave, Megan

Cc: drmax55@me.com; Maxine Kilcrease

Subject: Salary Story Revisited

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 12:03 PM
To: Delagardelle, Mary
Subject: RE: Salary Story Revisited

Mary, fyi, I am logging off my computer now... if you need anything, please call me today. Thanks!

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To: Scott Hansen (E-mail); Wiesley, Russ; Jack Hill (geezhill@aol.com); grimleys@netins.net; Bill Morain (anplsurg@grm.net)
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From: Hansen, Scott
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 11:59 AM
To: Delagardelle, Mary
Subject: Re: Salary Story Revisited

This should got to everyone. We really need to have a copy of the contract as well

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: "Delagardelle, Mary" <mdelagardelle@ia-sb.org>
Date: Sat, 6 Mar 2010 11:43:36 -0600
To: Scott Hansen \E-mail\ <scotth@netins.net>; Wiesley, Russ <rwiesley@mchsi.com>; <geezhill@aol.com>; <grimleys@netins.net>; <anplsurg@grm.net>
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From: Grimley, Lee Ann
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 11:58 AM
To: Delagardelle, Mary
Cc: Wiesley, Russ
Subject: Re: Salary Story Revisited

Mary,

Per board policy, Scott is not a member of the Executive Committee. That's spelled out in the Bylaws.

I need to think about my comments. What is my deadline to reply?

Lee Ann

----- Original Message -----

From: Delagardelle, Mary
To: Scott Hansen (E-mail) ; Wiesley, Russ ; geezhill@aol.com ; grimleys@netins.net ; anplsurg@grm.net
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Cc: Kilcrease, Maxine; geezhill@aol.com; Wiesley, Russ; Delagardelle, Mary
Subject: FW: Salary Story Revisited

Clark-

Maxine has limited Internet connectivity where she is, so asked me to forward this note to you. She just sent it this morning to me, Mary D., and Jack, and wanted you to be copied. I am also cc-ing her. Hopefully this helps clear things up - I know it made more sense to me, anyway. Thanks.

Megan

From: Kilcrease, Maxine
Sent: Sat 3/6/2010 9:36 AM
To: geezhill@aol.com; Delagardelle, Mary; Forgrave, Megan
Cc: drmax55@me.com; Maxine Kilcrease
Subject: Salary Story Revisited

Dear Jack:

Here is how I view the issue regarding my compensation.

When my contract with the association was being developed, I reviewed the contract, including all the details regarding benefits. I expressed my concern to you about in comparison to the salary and benefits I was getting at the AEA, I felt like I was taking some loss overall. At Heartland my salary was about \$180,000, I got a \$20 thousand dollar TSA, IPERS, full family medical which was zero deductible, dental, vision exams, life insurance, disability, \$15 thousand a year for professional development of my choosing, memberships in national organizations of my choice, and more. Also, I had access to educator discounts on computer hardware and software.

My offer at the association was for \$210,000 and a 5% plus up to a 2% match for a 401K, family medical, life insurance, disability, and travel including spousal per policy. It also included membership at the Des Moines Club which I asked be removed from my contract as I felt it was not reflective of what our members would expect.

I was concerned about what I felt were losses to me and you said that I needed to see the "whole package" and that you would have Jen Albers prepare a spreadsheet. When I saw the spreadsheet which indicated that the association would

pay my payroll taxes of \$16,900, that seemed to create a package that was much more in line with other state's executive directors, and the large districts across the state. After I saw the spreadsheet, I called you back and agreed to accept the contract. I didn't think any more about it until several months later when it looked to me like the association was not paying my payroll taxes. So I looked at my contract language and the spreadsheet and they did not match. I called you and asked about it. You said that the spread sheet should match with the contract and what appeared on the spreadsheet is what was intended. You said that the board had approved what was on the spreadsheet (in terms of compensation), therefore, your thinking was that it was no change from what was approved and the contract just needed to match the spreadsheet. You indicated that Darlene could make the changes, you would sign the new contract, and additional committee action wasn't necessary. That occurred.

I passed this information along to Kevin Schick. He said that he would talk to you and he needed to see the paperwork which he was given. He reported that he spoke to you and you told him to gross up everything. I did not know what that meant. I now know and believe that you did not in fact tell Kevin to gross up, and he did so of his own volition. When I received the "make up" check and regular paycheck, I was shocked. It was way too much. I immediately went to him and told him to get it done correctly. I was not going to spend the money but would hold it in an account but due to the complexity of how things like this are calculated I wanted a correction from the association. I asked him this many times including at Executive Council and even brought Randy into meetings. I needed to know the amount to pay back and I didn't spend the money.

I became increasingly concerned and frustrated in asking about it. I kept talking about it to my colleagues, and I couldn't get any results so I became suspicious of the situation. I wrote a memo about it. LeGrande, Mary and I had begun to confront Kevin about issues and shortly thereafter, he was gone, etc., etc. When LWBJ came on I took in the memo, told the story, and spoke to Mary and Randy also confirmed it. My January & February checks were again not fixed. So I decided to ask Paul Juffers if he could do the calculation because I wanted it taken care before I left to take some time off to take care of my family affairs. He said he would try to have it for me Friday, February 19 before I left on family business. He didn't. As soon as I returned on Monday March 1, I asked again. I told Paul and others that I copied on the email that I was going to go to our family accountant to have him calculate the amount of money to return because I couldn't get anyone at the association to get it done. That process was initiated. Paul then brought me the amount. I wrote the check. I conferred with both Russ and Scott on this as Russ is the current board president and Scott was the vice-chair of LGS (the ranking position).

That is what I remember.
Maxine Kilcrease, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312-141
515.247.7042
www.ia-sb.org
mkilcrease@ia-sb.org

Search

From: Delagardelle, Mary
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 11:44 AM
To: Hansen, Scott; Wiesley, Russ; 'Jack Hill (geezhill@aol.com)'; Grimley, Lee Ann; Bill Morain (anplsurg@grm.net)
Cc: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: FW: Salary Story Revisited

Dear Executive Committee Members,

Earlier this morning, Maxine sent a narrative description of the events related to her efforts to make sure her contract reflected the spread sheet she had received from Jen indicating what her pay should be as well as her efforts to correct what she assumed was over payment once those changes were made. Russ asked me to send this to the executive committee for your review and comments as to whether or not this should be sent to the entire board before the article is printed in the newspaper tomorrow. We have reason to believe that the salary issues may be a significant part of the article. Let me know what you think and Russ and I will talk later and send it on to the whole board if that's what you think should happen. Thanks. Mary

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 10:27 AM
To: ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com
Cc: Kilcrease, Maxine; geezhill@aol.com; Wiesley, Russ; Delagardelle, Mary
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Search

From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 10:41 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: FYI

I did get it ... and I heard from Jack, unfortunately.

Clark

On 3/6/10 10:36 AM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Clark, I just forwarded you a document from Maxine... please let me know if you received it. Want to make sure my connection at home is working. Thanks.

Megan

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Fri 3/5/2010 10:22 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: FYI

Megan,

Sorry to send this at a late hour, but if you see this e-mail before you get to work Monday, you may want to call me so I can give you a heads-up on something that will appear in print. I'll be here late tonight, but you can call tomorrow (Saturday) and I'll fill you in.

Clark
284-8233

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Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 10:36 AM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: FYI

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 12:18 AM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: FYI

Clark, fyi, we cannot answer anything regarding Jon Muller's severance pay due to confidentiality.

I think we've answered most other things, except for a couple that I really think you need to ask Maxine directly. Not trying to be evasive, I just feel much better if she answers these things. We've left her a voicemail so she should expect your call.

Thanks,
Megan

P.s. If anything else comes up this weekend, my cell is 229-1705.

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 10:23 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: FYI

Megan,

Sorry to send this at a late hour, but if you see this e-mail before you get to work Monday, you may want to call me so I can give you a heads-up on something that will appear in print. I'll be here late tonight, but you can call tomorrow (Saturday) and I'll fill you in.

Clark
284-8233

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 11:08 PM
To: Kilcrease, Maxine; 'anplsurg@grm.net'; 'George Wheeler'; Grimley, Lee Ann; 'Jack Hill'; 'Jim Green'; 'jurrens@siebring.com'; 'Katie Temple (templereeve@msn.com)'; 'mdezonias@mchsi.com'; 'Mike'; 'rcllewell@mchsi.com'; 'Roy Lamansky (roylamansky@iowatelecom.net)'; Wiesley, Russ; Hansen, Scott; 'ShafferCompany PC'; 'sshaw@forestcity.k12.ia.us'; Wieseler, Thomas
Cc: Smith, LeGrande; Delagardelle, Mary
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Megan

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Maxine-

As we said, we HATE to bother you after the interview, but I think you will want to answer these questions - we need to address them tonight or Saturday, for the Sunday newspaper story. You can call me, or email back, or call Clark back... he'll be at work Saturday (515) 284-8233 or you can call his home line (515) 274-4659.

Your pay: Clark had questions about the "grossing up" of your pay. We addressed it as much as we could, but he wanted to know why it was changed in September, whether it was retroactive to July 1, and also why it took so long to fix if you were asking it be fixed? What was the chain of command for having that fixed? (Note - we have pulled a Nov. 11 memo from Darlene to Jack, as well as your Jan. 5 memo, and your contract, but haven't released these things to Clark... we can if you direct us to do so.)

asked repeatedly it be corrected and randy was there on more than one occasion, couldn't get anybody to do anything about it. randy said dont know how much, how to do it, etc. when lwbj came, asked paul... apprec if someone sept - given spreadsheet when hired by jen - terms an conditions didn't match contract. kevin said he and randy talke to jack hill. since wasn't match, should be match. jack said reissue contract bc no difference, all wrong. jack told kevin to gross it up.

jen's spreadsheet showed the assoc would show for my part of payroll taxes. my check didn't reflect that, should not have been paying for my state and federal taxes... didn't want any state or fed taxes from assoc. just pay social security. jack needed to sign new version of contract. version one and version two - jack signed it, totally kevin's initiative.

background check - signatory. don't remember. ryan flynn done bg check before placed here. needed signatory - jen was signing things herself and only herself... while getting background and credit check.

sept board meeting, we had big long memo of everything worried about. took us long time to get through that. did bring them in, weren't keeping them from speaking to board. were able to speak to board. don't know why had that impression. i had raised lot questions, where were bsuines plans, why this, why not, made brooks lodden nervous. when first letter written about brooks lodden not able to work with kevin or me, it's occurred to me that all said kevin never returned phone calls, car question?

jack

salary is in the contract. what authority do i have to do anyhitng abotu the salary? nthing? don't rememeb r signing anything besides mach, july, etc.

kauffman - talked about email supposdly gave me that pay too high. nothing i recall about any discussions that her pay was too high. told him his source is better than mine in trying to find out where getting information. one contract i remember signing was her initial contract, very close to ron's. way before what you're talkign about.

Megan (Hawkins) Forgrave
Communications Director
Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312-1417
(515) 288-1991, ext. 236
1-800-795-4272
Direct Line: (515) 247-7036
Cell: (515) 229-1705

Fax: (515) 247-4680
www.ia-sb.org

Search

From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 10:23 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: FYI

Megan,

Sorry to send this at a late hour, but if you see this e-mail before you get to work Monday, you may want to call me so I can give you a heads-up on something that will appear in print. I'll be here late tonight, but you can call tomorrow (Saturday) and I'll fill you in.

Clark
284-8233

Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 8:10 PM
To: Grimley, Lee Ann
Subject: RE: DSM Register

We are in the office working on it right now and will be sending something to the board asap. If you have a question right now, please call Mary D at 515-290-1902. We are working as quickly as we can... thanks!
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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 7:12 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: FW: Management letters still needed
Attachments: 2005 ISJIT Management Letter.pdf; 2005 IJUMP Management Letter.pdf; 2005 ISCAP Management Letter.pdf; 2008 ISJIT Management Letter.pdf

Clark-

Here are the rest of the management letters. Please note that LGS wasn't organized until November 2005, so they do not have a management letter for that year.

Thanks,
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From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 10:19 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Today's 2pm meeting

Sorry to hear about Maxine's mother.
Thanks for arranging this....

On 3/5/10 10:15 AM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Hi there, Clark and Staci-
That's no problem at all if Staci joins the interview - you are both most welcome here.

Clark, I did just try to call but will explain here - when it rains it pours. Maxine's mother passed away this morning, so she is on her way to Oregon and will not be able to join us today. However, we will still hold the meeting with you, as I think it's very important to get you in here to ask questions and get the facts... Sitting in for Maxine will be the two other members of the leadership team here, Dr. Mary Delagardelle, the deputy executive director (who is also the executive director of the foundation), and LeGrande Smith, general counsel. We will also still have Russ Wiesley, board president, and a representative from LWBJ here, too.

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Direct Line: (515) 247-7036
Cell: (515) 229-1705
Fax: (515) 247-4680
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-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 9:38 AM

To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Today's 2pm meeting

Megan,

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Obviously, she knows more about IASB than I do, and I didn't want you to be surprised when two of us showed up.

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From: NYTimes.com <nytdirect@nytimes.com>
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 2:33 AM
To: Olesen, Susie
Subject: Today's Headlines: Safety Is Issue as Budget Cuts Free Prisoners

If you have trouble reading this e-mail, go to <http://www.nytimes.com/todaysheadlines>

Friday, March 5, 2010
Compiled 2 AM E.T.



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TOP STORIES

Safety Is Issue as Budget Cuts

Free Prisoners

By MONICA DAVEY

Complaints and new arrests have prompted some states to reconsider giving prisoners time off for good behavior.

Pressure Mounting, Paterson

Loses Aide and Consults Lawyer

By DANNY HAKIM and JIM DWYER

The aide, Peter E. Kauffmann, resigned as information emerged that the governor's contact with a woman in an assault case was more extensive than earlier reported.

House Adopts \$15 Billion Plan to

Spur Job Creation

By CARL HULSE

The measure, granting payroll tax breaks for new hires, was called the first step in a broad push on the economy.



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QUOTATION OF THE DAY

"It's a long way to Phoenix from here."

[BONNIE CHAPMAN](#), a resident of Wickenburg, Ariz., on the closing of highway rest stops because of state budget problems.

MOVIES

OPINION



Interactive Graphic: Leading to an Oscar Win

Compare winners since 1975 to see how well other film awards predicted the Oscars. [Cast Your Oscar Ballot](#)



Home Fires: The Bomb Within Us

After viewing "The Hurt Locker" in Hanoi, a veteran's thoughts turn to the effects of war on the nation's psyche.

WORLD

Haitian Singer and His Guitar Fight Urge to Weep

By SIMON ROMERO

Beken, known for songs about redemption, lost his home and is struggling to find the will to make music again.

Suspicious and Angry, a Shiite Cleric's Followers Await the Iraqi Vote

By ANTHONY SHADID

The movement led by Moktada al-Sadr, which once fought the American military and the Iraqi government, has uneasily embraced the national election to be held on Sunday.

In Iraq, Early Vote Is Marred by Attacks

By STEVEN LEE MYERS and MARC SANTORA

At least 12 people were killed in attacks aimed at soldiers, police officers and other security workers who were voting early in parliamentary elections.

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U.S.

Two Pentagon Police Officers Shot; Gunman Killed

By IAN URBINA and ANAHAD O'CONNOR

The two officers were wounded when a man walked up to them outside of the Pentagon Metro station and opened fire. The gunman was later fatally shot by police in a shootout.

Closing of Rest Stops Stirs Anger in Arizona

By JENNIFER STEINHAUER

The state's decision to close 13 highway rest stops has been met with more anger than other cost-cutting moves.

California Students Protest Education Cuts

By JESSE MCKINLEY

The demonstrations, which are backed by a range of groups, are taking place on college campuses and at public schools.

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POLITICS

POLITICAL MEMO

Rash of Scandals Tests

Democrats at Sensitive Time

By JEFF ZELENY

Ethics cases have opened the party to the same lines of criticism that Democrats used against Republicans in winning control of the House and Senate four years ago.



Michigan Lawmaker Steps Up at Odd Facebook ads

Ways and Means

By DAVID M. HERSZENHORN and ROBERT PEAR

Representative Sander M. Levin of Michigan stepped into the powerful chairmanship as Democrats averted an internal battle over replacing Charles B. Rangel.

[ALSO IN TECH »](#)

[Getting the most out of Twitter](#)

[Are digital billboards dangerous?](#)



Obama Takes Health Care

Deadline to Democrats

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG and ROBERT PEAR

President Obama met with insurance executives and selected House Democrats, as party leaders struggled to figure out whether they can meet his timetable.

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BUSINESS

Market Defies Fear of Real Estate Bubble in China

By DAVID BARBOZA

China is in the middle of a spectacular real estate boom. But the question is whether it is in the middle of a bubble — one that might threaten the global economy.

The Newest Hybrid Model

By JAD MOUAWAD

A vast project in Florida will be the world's second-largest solar plant, attached to the nation's largest fossil-fuel power plant.

NEWS ANALYSIS

I.M.F. Help for Greece Is a Risky Prospect

By SEWELL CHAN and LIZ ALDERMAN

If Greece asks the International Monetary Fund for help, it could touch off political and financial tension in other European countries.

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Ads Posted on Facebook Strike Some as Off-Key

By BRAD STONE

From mainstream companies to others that are more off-putting, advertisers on Facebook are a motley bunch.

ADVERTISING

Tireless Employees Get Their Tribute, Even if It's in Felt and Polyester

By STUART ELLIOTT

A campaign from Zappos features puppets, styled after actual company employees, interacting with customers and demonstrating their patience.

TiVo Prevails in Patent Rights Case Against Dish

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A federal appeals court cleared the way for TiVo to collect hundreds of millions of dollars from Dish Network over a patent dispute for digital video recorders.

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SPORTS

Roberto Barbon, Japan's First Latin Baseball Player, Still Feels at Home

By BRAD LEFTON

Roberto Barbon came to Japan from Cuba in 1955 and never left. He may be the longest continuously serving figure in baseball there.

Cuban Defector Joins the Cincinnati Reds With Much to Learn

By TYLER KEPNER

The Reds were the surprise winners in the Aroldis Chapman sweepstakes, gambling on a talented prospect instead of an expensive free agent.

Whirlwind of a Day for Mets, Not Just on the Field

By DAVID WALDSTEIN

The Mets beat St. Louis in a marathon Grapefruit League game and received good news about Jose Reyes's follow-up blood test.

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ARTS

The Drama of How the Race Is Run

By MELENA RYZIK

This awards season has had as much narrative sweep as a made-for-television mini-series.

Predicting Winners by Hunch and History

By JANET ROBERTS

A bit of number crunching to inform your last-minute choices in the office Oscar pool.

ART REVIEW | 'SKIN FRUIT'

Anti-Mainstream Museum's Mainstream Show

By ROBERTA SMITH

The New Museum's exhibition of artworks from the collection of Dakis Joannou, one of its trustees, did not sound like a good idea. Seeing it up close does not change that.

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NEW YORK/REGION

Governor Gets Help From Lawyer of Spitzer's

By BENJAMIN WEISER

As his problems deepen, Gov. David A. Paterson of New York turns to Theodore Wells, who worked for Eliot Spitzer during his troubles in 2008.

Who Can Clean Up Albany? Koch and Company Will Try

By SAM ROBERTS

"Somebody's got to do something," the former mayor said of the coalition he was forming to plot a purge of any New York legislators resisting change.

POLITICAL MEMO

Rash of Scandals Tests Democrats at Sensitive Time

By JEFF ZELENY

Ethics cases have opened the party to the same lines of criticism used against Republicans in winning control of the House and Senate four years ago.

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MOVIES

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MOVIE REVIEW | 'ALICE IN WONDERLAND'

What's a Nice Girl Doing in This Hole?

By MANOHLA DARGIS

Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland" is busy, garish and periodically amusing.

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A.I.G., Greece, and Who's Next?

Washington must stop stalling and fix the derivatives market, which kneecapped American firms and contributed to the debt crisis in Greece.

Trials and Error

If President Obama does not stop the Republicans' assault on the courts and prosecutorial discretion, his ability to make national security policy will be compromised.

A Chance for the Bluefin

European nations and others should follow the Obama administration's lead by endorsing an international ban on the bluefin tuna trade.

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Senator Bunning's Universe

By PAUL KRUGMAN

Democratic and Republican debates over unemployment benefits and health care show that the parties currently live in different universes, both intellectually and morally.

The Wal-Mart Hippies

By DAVID BROOKS

The Tea Party's raging against the machine echoes an older radicalism from the opposite end of the political spectrum.

Iran in Its Intricacy

By ROGER COHEN

It is time for Iran to find the balance between faith and pluralism that has eluded it for a century.

Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Change

By MERRILL A. McPEAK

Arguments over training costs, civil rights and individual performance miss the point. In combat, unit cohesion is more important.

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ON THIS DAY

On March 5, 1946, Winston Churchill delivered his famous "Iron Curtain" speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Mo.

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From: Grimley, Lee Ann
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 9:01 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: DSM Register

Hi again,

Thanks for the speedy reply. I'm probably really overthinking this conversation with the Des Moines Register, and you probably know much better than I do what they are looking for.

I apologize if I in any way made you feel as though you weren't capable of handling this. That never crossed my mind. I'm just worried about the rest of us.

Good luck and I'll be thinking of all of you tomorrow.

Signing off for now.

Lee Ann

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Cc: Wiesley, Russ
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Fyi, awhile back, I and the executive council did meet with a crisis communications expert to talk through things, and I'm happy to seek advice on certain matters if the whole board feels we need to. That said, I hope you have confidence in my work and my loyalty to the entire organization, and feel you can talk to me about communications needs. If we are all going to get through this with IASB and the board intact, and I believe we can, we are going to have to pull together and talk and brainstorm and work hard on all messaging and communications. I'm sure you were well meaning, but there are also some things I'm not sure we're ready for NSBA to know - Lisa's role has changed, so please keep that in mind. And asking for assistance from the national group may be something that needs to be discussed with the entire board.

I am more than open to communications ideas. Thanks for your note, and please do let me know if there are other questions I can answer or if you have input.

Many thanks,
Megan

Megan (Hawkins) Forgrave
Communications Director
Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312-1417
(515) 288-1991, ext. 236
1-800-795-4272
Direct Line: (515) 247-7036
Cell: (515) 229-1705
Fax: (515) 247-4680
www.ia-sb.org

From: Grimley, Lee Ann
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 6:20 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Cc: Wiesley, Russ
Subject: Re: DSM Register

Thanks for the update Megan. I do have a question: When you say auditors, do you mean Brooks Lodden or LWBJ? I think Maxine uses the term auditors for both firms so I'm not clear.

Also, I want to let you know that I emailed Lisa Bartusek today. She just sent something back and said that if we need any help or additional communication resources, we can run things by NSBA's communication director. So, this may an opportunity to make our NSBA dues work for us if we need consultation as we go through situation.

Thanks for all you do,

Lee Ann Grimley

----- Original Message -----

From: Forgrave, Megan

To: Kilcrease, Maxine ; Borgen, Margaret ; rvandekieft@cfu.net ; Craig Lohmann ; Sarah Long ; plbrooks@machlink.com ; anplsurg@grm.net ; George Wheeler ; Grimley, Lee Ann ; Jack Hill ; Jim Green ; jurrens@siebring.com ; templereeve@msn.com ; mdezonia@mchsi.com ; Mike ; rclewell@mchsi.com ; roylamansky@iowatelecom.net ; Wesley, Russ ; Hansen, Scott ; ShafferCompany PC ; sshaw@forestcity.k12.ia.us ; Wieseler, Thomas

Cc: Smith, LeGrande ; Delagardelle, Mary ; Maxine Kilcrease

Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 3:53 PM

Subject: RE: DSM Register

As an update to Maxine's earlier note, we are going to meet with reporter Clark Kauffman tomorrow afternoon to answer some general questions he has. Maxine, Russ, and someone from the auditing team will be present.

As an fyi, he's said he would like to wait on the article until next week after our board meeting occurs and we have the update from the auditors and more substantial information, etc., but that he can't promise that... so I'm not sure when this will run. Hopefully he'll give us the courtesy of a heads up and I will talk with him about that.

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From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 6:59 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: IASB management letters

OK, thanks.

Clark

On 3/4/10 5:37 PM, "Forgrove, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Hi Clark-

You should find most of the management letters for 2005-08 at this file-sharing link: <http://members.ia-sb.org/fileshare/IASB03042010173404.zip>

For some reason, we are missing a few electronically, so I will ask someone to try and track the hard copies down tomorrow.

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To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Cc: Kilcrease, Maxine; Blair, Darlene
Subject: IASB management letters

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From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 5:06 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: NSFA questions

OK, thanks.

On 3/4/10 5:04 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Clark-

Our auditor will look at this and should have an answer by the time you come in tomorrow.

Thanks,
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Thanks.

Clark

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Thanks.

Clark

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 4:59 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: IASB Audit Reports

Hi Clark-

I don't know if you got the one message I sent... I did send you the IASB management letter for 2008 and am waiting on the rest to be pulled - the person who pulled the original records (all these audits) did not pull the management letters, so I'm having him do that now. He mistakenly thought they were already in those audit documents. He should be doing it before the end of the day and I will forward them as soon as possible. Again, sorry for the confusion.

Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 1:30 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: IASB Audit Reports

Megan,

Maybe I am overlooking them, but I don't see the auditors' managements letters in what you sent. I see the audits themselves with the attached cover letters, but no management letters.

Typically, the management letter is a separate document from the audit, but is written by the auditors and is addressed to the top administrator(s), outlining specific concerns and deficiencies, the details of which may or may not be referenced in the audit itself.

Clark

On 3/3/10 5:53 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Hi Clark-

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I would still like to talk to you to schedule a meeting time when you can come in and talk to our executive director and one of our finance experts, so please give me a call when you're able. We are more than willing to work with you and appreciate your effort to have a balanced article with all the necessary perspectives - we will have people on hand to address any and all questions you have, and hopefully can provide some clarity. We also have some additional resources

we'd like to share with you and I'd like to talk about the timeline for getting all of this together, but I can explain when we talk.

Enclosed via the file-sharing site (2008 documents):

IASB consolidated audit (also includes Iowa School Boards Foundation and LGS/Payschools) ISJIT annual report/audit
ISCAP audit ISEBA audit IJUMP audit

Thanks,
Megan

Megan (Hawkins) Forgrave
Communications Director
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<<mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>><<mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>>]

Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 5:11 PM

To: Forgrave, Megan

Subject: Interview / records request

Megan,

I'd like to come down there this week and talk to the executive director and one of the organization's financial experts about IASB spending. Is that something you can arrange?

Also, I'd like copies of the most recently completed IASB audit (with the accompanying management letter) and annual report; a list of salaries at the association for both FY08 and FY09; and the most recent annual reports, audit reports and management letters for these IASB affiliates:

IASB Foundation

ISJIT

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PaySchools

I realize it may take a few days to pull all of this together. Of course, I recognize that IASB and its affiliates are not governmental agencies, but we're asking for these records because of the tax dollars that are used by IASB and the various organizations' status as 28-E intergovernmental entities.

Please let me know if you have any questions for me.

Thanks for your help.

Clark Kauffman

Des Moines Register

(515) 284-8233

Search

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Cc: Wiesley, Russ
Subject: RE: NSFA questions

Megan:
Paul will have the answer tomorrow,
Maxine

RUSS: I assume we will be answering this question and other similar questions. This is public information.
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Maxine Kilcrease, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312-141
515.247.7042
www.ia-sb.org
mkilcrease@ia-sb.org

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From: Forgrave, Megan
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To: Kilcrease, Maxine
Subject: FW: NSFA questions

Can you answer this?

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In the NSFA's FY 2008 tax return, the NSAF reports that it extended to its contributors, officers, directors or key employees, certain loans, credit, goods, services or facilities. (Schedule A, Part III, Lines 2a and 2b.) Under IRS rules, those activities have to be explained in a "detailed statement." However, there is no accompanying statement explaining those transactions. Can you tell me who they involved and what was provided?

Also, this same tax return shows that at the beginning of the year, the NSFAA owed the IASB \$261,561, and at the end of the year, owed the IASB nothing. Was that debt repaid by NSAF or did IASB forgive the debt?

Thanks.

Clark

Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 4:45 PM
To: Kilcrease, Maxine
Subject: FW: NSFA questions

Can you answer this?

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 4:35 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: NSFA questions

Megan,

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Thanks.

Clark

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From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 4:36 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: IASB Management Letter for FY08-attached

Thanks for the update. I'll look at these records and let you know if they're not what I was seeking...

Clark

On 3/4/10 3:24 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Clark, is this what you were looking for in terms of a management letter? We are pulling the 2005-07 management letters and will get those to you today or tomorrow - I apologize for the confusion - the first person who pulled records mistakenly thought these were included already. This might take a day or so because some were only filed as hard copies and we just need to fish around in old board packets to find them. Thanks for your patience.

Also, sounds like our email system was down for a while today but should be back up now. Please let me know if you receive this email, and if you receive the other one with the 2005-07 audits - otherwise I will resend or call to check. See you at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Thanks,
Megan

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 4:06 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: IASB 2005-07 audits

Great! Thanks for letting me know. And it was on our end,... Our system was down for a while this afternoon, so everything sat in a queue for a while.

I also just sent you a management letter, but it is a draft copy... I'm getting you the final versions from our controller.

Thanks,
Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 3:27 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: IASB 2005-07 audits

Megan,

I just now received this! Maybe the problem is on our end. It shows you sent this out at 1:04, but my Inbox shows it arriving at 3:24.

Clark

On 3/4/10 1:04 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

Hi there, Clark-

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Cell: (515) 229-1705
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www.ia-sb.org <<http://www.ia-sb.org/>><<http://www.ia-sb.org/>>

Search

From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 3:27 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: IASB 2005-07 audits

Megan,

I just now received this! Maybe the problem is on our end. It shows you sent this out at 1:04, but my inbox shows it arriving at 3:24.

Clark

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Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 3:25 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Cc: Kilcrease, Maxine; Delagardelle, Mary; Smith, LeGrande
Subject: IASB Management Letter for FY08-attached
Attachments: IASB Audit Letter FYE 06-30-2008.pdf

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**IASB Foundation
ISJIT
ISCAP
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I realize it may take a few days to pull all of this together. Of course, I recognize that IASB and its affiliates are not governmental agencies, but we're asking for these records because of the tax dollars that are used by IASB and the various organizations' status as 28-E intergovernmental entities.

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Executive Director
Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312-141
515.247.7042
www.ia-sb.org
mkilcrease@ia-sb.org

Search

From: Kilcrease, Maxine
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 1:17 PM
To: Borgen, Margaret; Dick Vande Kieft (rvandekieft@cfu.net); Craig Lohmann; Sarah Long; Brooks, Paul; 'anplsurg@grm.net'; 'George Wheeler'; Grimley, Lee Ann; 'Jack Hill'; 'Jim Green'; 'jurrens@siebring.com'; 'Katie Temple (templereeve@msn.com)'; Kilcrease, Maxine; 'mdezonia@mchsi.com'; 'Mike'; 'rclewell@mchsi.com'; 'Roy Lamansky (roylamansky@iowatelecom.net)'; Wiesley, Russ; Hansen, Scott; 'ShafferCompany PC'; 'sshaw@forestcity.k12.ia.us'; Wieseler, Thomas
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Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 1:05 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Cc: Kilcrease, Maxine; Delagardelle, Mary
Subject: IASB 2005-07 audits

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From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 7:02 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Google Alert - Iowa school board

Google News Alert for: **Iowa school board**

USDA says food buyer for schools broke rules

DesMoinesRegister.com

By CLARK KAUFFMAN • ckauffman@dmreg.com • March 4, 2010 An obscure corporation that helps buy millions of dollars' worth of food for **Iowa's school** lunch ...

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From: Kilcrease, Maxine
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 6:42 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: RE: IASB Audit Reports

Very well done!!!

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 5:53 PM
To: ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com
Cc: Kilcrease, Maxine; Delagardelle, Mary; Smith, LeGrande
Subject: IASB Audit Reports

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Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 5:11 PM

To: Forgrave, Megan

Subject: Interview / records request

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 5:53 PM
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Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 6:05 PM
To: Kilcrease, Maxine; Delagardelle, Mary; Smith, LeGrande
Subject: FW: IASB Audit Reports

Fyi, Clark was busy today so will call us tomorrow. Thanks!

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From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 5:59 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: IASB Audit Reports

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Thanks,

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 6:02 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: IASB Audit Reports

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ISEBA audit
IJUMP audit

Thanks,
Megan

Megan (Hawkins) Forgrave
Communications Director
Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312-1417
(515) 288-1991, ext. 236
1-800-795-4272
Direct Line: (515) 247-7036
Cell: (515) 229-1705
Fax: (515) 247-4680
www.ia-sb.org

—Original Message—

From: Kauffman, Clark [<mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>]

Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 5:11 PM

To: Forgrave, Megan

Subject: Interview / records request

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Please let me know if you have any questions for me.

Thanks for your help.

Clark Kauffman

Des Moines Register

(515) 284-8233

Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 5:43 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Cc: Kilcrease, Maxine; Delagardelle, Mary; Smith, LeGrande
Subject: IASB Audit Reports
Attachments: IASB-FINAL Audited Financial Statements (with Statements) FYE 06-30-2008.pdf; IASB Consolidated Audit Report FYE 06-30-2008.pdf; ISJIT Annual Report FINAL 2007-08.pdf; ISCAP-FINAL Audited Financial Statement FYE 06-30-2008.pdf; ISEBA-FINAL Audited Financial Statement FYE 06-30-2008.pdf; IJUMP-FINAL Audited Financial Statements FYE 06-30-2008.pdf

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 12:40 PM
To: 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: Interview / records request

Hi Clark-

I left you a message earlier this morning, but wanted to let you know I have a couple of meetings this afternoon... Please give me a call when you've got a few minutes as I have some things to share with you - my direct line is 247-7036 or call my cell if I'm not in the office - 229-1705. Thanks!

Megan

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Search

From: Gannon, Mary
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 11:12 AM
To: Black, Jackie
Subject: RE: From Ed Darden with NYSSBA

Yes, know him, good guy. Thanks.

From: Black, Jackie
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 7:21 AM
To: Gannon, Mary
Subject: FW: From Ed Darden with NYSSBA

Good morning Mary,

This person contacted me yesterday by voice mail. He said he wrote for a NY School Board Association publication called the Forecast and was doing a story on cash reserves in several states. I returned his call and as we talked about cash reserves he referred to different types of cash reserves. I explained that the SBRC cash reserve was not a "different type" only a committee who reviewed unique situations for additional cash reserves. He wanted me to look at his draft article and visit with him today at 9:30. Below please find his email. Your thoughts?

I'm comfortable discussing with him today, just wanted to know if you knew of him or had any concerns. Thanks!

Jackie

From: edwin@edadvocracy.com [mailto:edwin@edadvocracy.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 2:15 AM
To: Black, Jackie
Subject: From Ed Darden with NYSSBA

Ms. Black,

In preparation for our call today at 9:30 a.m. your time, please see the following draft. In the final, I might use more or less.

As I mentioned, I am researching information for the New York State School Boards Association publication, *Forecast*, and the subject is school board reserves. Thanks.

Edwin

IOWA

In Iowa school districts use cash reserves to buy such items textbooks, technology, supplies and furniture purchases typically happen in the summer before school starts. Districts also use reserves to meet payroll until state aid is received or to fund special education deficits or English-Language Learner costs. Still other districts plan on dedicated cash reserves to fund reductions in state aid or unpaid property taxes.

Iowa has two types of cash reserves:■ The regular cash reserve levy can be used for whatever reason the board determines■ The School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) cash reserve levy is by state approval.

Money raised can be used for a specific purpose authorized by the committee – most frequently for special education. By law, the SBRC is a five-person body consisting of the director of the Iowa Department of Education, the director of the state budgeting office and four members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Iowa state senate.

Each year, the board of education determines how much of the tax levy will be for regular cash reserves. If they district's general fund cash reserves or fund balance exceeds 25 percent of expenditures, then the district cannot seek additional cash reserves until the level drops below that ceiling. If a given district's fund balance is lower than that threshold, then there is no limit to amount a district can levy, as long as it does not exceed 25 percent. In reality, most district reserves average 10-12 percent, according to the Iowa Association of School Boards.

Iowa Governor Chet Culver has been critical of schools in the state, telling the *Des Moines Register* newspaper that, "Right now there is roughly \$400 million in cash reserves in our 365 school districts. So as we tighten our belt, we're asking those local school districts to do the same."

Additionally, the President of the Iowa State Education Association, a teacher's union with 34,000 members, also endorsed the use of reserves instead of further cuts or a property tax hike. Chris Bern told the newspaper that cash reserves can help avoid "poor choices that would have an adverse effect in the long-run." He said using the reserves will help offset the expected 10 percent cut in state funding.

According to the Iowa Legislative Services Agency, approximately \$318 million in the 2009 fiscal year was placed into undesignated and unreserved fund balance accounts for K-12 school districts.

Governor Culver in January 2010 signed into law a measure that requires school districts to spend down cash reserves before raising taxes. The change takes effect in July 2012 and also reduces to 20 percent of the general fund the amount of cash reserves that Iowa schools can hold. In the legislature, the move received the backing of both political parties.

Edwin C. Darden, Esq.
Managing Partner

EdAdvocacy

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Springfield, VA 22153-2511
Voice: (703) 459-6703
Fax: (703) 569-2619
Edwin@EdAdvocacy.com
www.EdAdvocacy.com

Search

From: Wiesley, Russ
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 12:38 AM
To: Kilcrease, Maxine
Subject: RE: DSM Register

Maxine,

Did the Executive committee get this letter and your letter that Megan worked on? If so, send it out when you feel ready. I will be at IASB around 12:30 or 1.

Russ Wiesley
805 Walnut Ridge Drive
Waukee, Iowa 50263-9619
515-238-3937
rwiesley@mchsi.com

From: Kilcrease, Maxine [mailto:MKilcrease@IA-SB.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 6:52 PM
To: Wiesley, Russ
Cc: Blair, Darlene; Delagardelle, Mary; Kilcrease, Maxine; Smith, LeGrande
Subject: DSM Register
Importance: High

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He implied that the information for the story was brought to him by a former employee. He "understands" that there are "sensitive feelings" with former employees.

After the two meetings tomorrow morning, one that LWBJ will have with Jon and the second with Bill and Lee Ann, I propose that we send out our communication to members, staff, and all key stakeholders before he releases his article. The risk we face is that the audit isn't yet complete, and it won't be official information until the 31st. We are on the horns of a dilemma.

We will inform staff of the Register request for information in the morning and would like to send the same message out to the board members, former board members and Ron at that same time because I want to be sure that staff are aware of the pending article also.

I am fine tuning the communication we began working on last week and will plan to send it to the executive committee in the morning. I will send it to you tonight so you have a chance to give me feedback.

Maxine
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Executive Director
Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312-141
515.247.7042
www.ia-sb.org
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_____ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 4907 (20100302)

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

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Maxine
Maxine Kilcrease, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312-141
515.247.7042
www.ia-sb.org
mkilcrease@ia-sb.org

Search

From: Kilcrease, Maxine
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 6:52 PM
To: Wiesley, Russ
Cc: Blair, Darlene; Delagardelle, Mary; Kilcrease, Maxine; Smith, LeGrande
Subject: DSM Register

Importance: High

Russ:

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Search

From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 5:20 PM
To: Kilcrease, Maxine
Subject: Re: Interview / records request

Just checking on the status of that request...

Clark

On 3/1/10 7:20 PM, "Kilcrease, Maxine" <MKilcrease@IA-SB.org> wrote:

Clark:

As Megan indicated, we will get back to you sometime tomorrow. We will have a lot of information to share with you.
Maxine

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www.ia-sb.org <<http://www.ia-sb.org>><<http://www.ia-sb.org>>
mkilcrease@ia-sb.org

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 6:01 PM
To: Kauffman, Clark
Cc: Kilcrease, Maxine
Subject: RE: Interview / records request

Hi Clark-

I've received your request below and have forwarded it to Maxine Kilcrease, our executive director. We'll get back to you tomorrow about a meeting, and in regard to the documents you've listed here.

Many thanks,

Megan

Megan (Hawkins) Forgrave
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From: Kauffman, Clark [mailto:ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Mon 3/1/2010 5:10 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Interview / records request

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Also, I'd like copies of the most recently completed IASB audit (with the accompanying management letter) and annual report; a list of salaries at the association for both FY08 and FY09; and the most recent annual reports, audit reports and management letters for these IASB affiliates:

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I realize it may take a few days to pull all of this together. Of course, I recognize that IASB and its affiliates are not governmental agencies, but we're asking for these records because of the tax dollars that are used by IASB and the various organizations' status as 28-E intergovernmental entities.

Please let me know if you have any questions for me.

Thanks for your help.

Clark Kauffman
Des Moines Register
(515) 284-8233

Search

From: Jaco, Aaron <AJaco@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 4:04 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Salary info on IASB

Ms. Forgrave:

I see a bunch of 08-09 salary data on the HR section of the IASB site; does your organization have any 2009-10 info?

Thanks for your help,

—
Aaron W. Jaco
Staff Writer

Des Moines Register's Central Iowa Weeklies Indianola, Altoona, Ankeny ajaco@dmreg.com Office (515) 961-2511, x119
Mobile (515) 238-9792
Fax: (515) 961-4833
Mail to: 112 N. Howard St.
Indianola, IA 50125

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Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 4:04 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
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From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 7:21 PM
To: Kilcrease, Maxine
Subject: Re: Interview / records request

Thank you. I appreciate the quick response.

Clark Kauffman
Des Moines Register

On 3/1/10 7:20 PM, "Kilcrease, Maxine" <MKilcrease@IA-SB.org> wrote:

Clark:

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To: Forgrave, Megan; 'Kauffman, Clark'
Subject: RE: Interview / records request

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From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 6:05 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Re: Interview / records request

Thanks, Megan,

Clark

On 3/1/10 6:01 PM, "Forgrave, Megan" <mforgrave@ia-sb.org> wrote:

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Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 5:59 PM
To: Kilcrease, Maxine
Subject: FW: Interview / records request

Maxine-

Below is Clark's records request. Please note that in a subsequent email (as I've noted below) he corrected himself and asked for FY 08 and 09. I will respond to him that we received it and will copy you on that, too. Thanks.

Megan

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From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 5:32 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: FW: Interview / records request

Megan,

Apologies for the typo in the second graf. I am asking for salaries for FY08 and FY09.

Thanks again for your help with this.

Clark

----- Forwarded Message

From: Clark Kauffman <ckauffma@dmreg.com>
Date: Mon, 01 Mar 2010 17:10:54 -0600
To: <mforgrave@ia-sb.org>
Conversation: Interview / records request
Subject: Interview / records request

Megan,

I'd like to come down there this week and talk to the executive director and one of the organization's financial experts about IASB spending. Is that something you can arrange?

Also, I'd like copies of the most recently completed IASB audit (with the accompanying management letter) and annual report; a list of salaries at the association for both FY08 and FY09; and the most recent annual reports, audit reports and management letters for these IASB affiliates:

IASB Foundation
ISJIT
ISCAP
ISEBA
IJUMP
PaySchools

I realize it may take a few days to pull all of this together. Of course, I recognize that IASB and its affiliates are not governmental agencies, but we're asking for these records because of the tax dollars that are used by IASB and the various organizations' status as 28-E intergovernmental entities.

Please let me know if you have any questions for me.

Thanks for your help.

Clark Kauffman
Des Moines Register
(515) 284-8233

----- End of Forwarded Message

Search

From: Kauffman, Clark <ckauffma@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 5:11 PM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: Interview / records request

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 10:48 AM
To: 'Forgrave, Reid'
Subject: RE: happy march!

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Hope it goes well today. I don't see a note below from Justin, though... In any case, love you lots and keep me posted! Xo

Me

-----Original Message-----

From: Forgrave, Reid [mailto:rforgrave@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 10:24 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: happy march!

Happy March, baby! Spring is almost here.

So I think Tom Barton just got fired -- too many errors, I heard.

See note below from Justin Cremer -- sounds like they had fun! We'll do it again.

Just sitting in the courtroom, waiting. Yay.

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Reid Forgrave
The Des Moines Register
P.O. Box 957, Des Moines, IA 50306
515.284.8260
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Search

From: Barbara Filer <befiler@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 4:31 PM
To: Gvist, Lou Ann
Subject: RE: FW: Roger Wendt

Oh good grief. Keep me posted on Mary. I will drop her a note tomorrow.

--- On Tue, 2/23/10, Gvist, Lou Ann <LGvist@ia-sb.org> wrote:

From: Gvist, Lou Ann <LGvist@ia-sb.org>
Subject: RE: FW: Roger Wendt
To: "Barbara Filer" <befiler@yahoo.com>
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 4:29 PM

No it doesn't and here is some news on Mary: Her surgery is set for 3/10. The good news is that the chemo and radiation got great results! The bad news is they found a spot on her lung. Results so far are inconclusive. Scary though. They won't do a biopsy until after surgery. So we are keeping our fingers crossed that the spot is just inflammation. :(

From: Barbara Filer [mailto:befiler@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 4:26 PM
To: Gvist, Lou Ann
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From: Gvist, Lou Ann <LGvist@ia-sb.org>
Subject: FW: Roger Wendt
To: "Barbara Filer" <befiler@yahoo.com>
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 4:16 PM

Hi - I know Roger represents your old neck of the woods. Just thought you would want to know.
Hugs,
Lou

From: Gannon, Mary
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 3:50 PM
To: IASB Company Distribution List
Subject: FW: Roger Wendt

I apologize that you didn't get this e-mail yesterday. Have no idea who the "iasb" is I sent it to but clearly no one here got it. FYI.

From: Gannon, Mary
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 1:57 PM
To: iasb; 'emily@ialobbyresources.com'; Moore, Jim; Lew Finch
Subject: Roger Wendt

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We don't know what to expect from here on. Our assumption is Rep. Ficken, the vice-chair, will chair the committee for the rest of session. He's a retired teacher from Independence. Roger's son is Todd Wendt, LeMars supt and his daughter-in-law teaches at a Sioux City middle school.

FYI

From: Gannon, Mary [mailto:mgannon@ia-sb.org]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 1:15 PM
To: Jacobs, Jennifer
Subject: thoughts

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From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 2:13 PM
To: 'Forgrave, Reid'
Subject: RE: Harper Pics

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I just got off the phone with Susie, who had wonderful praise for your work in Sunday's paper... She said she so appreciated the way you wrote about Parkersburg. Said it was a good mix of respecting the town's privacy - showing that they're not talking, they're protecting one another - while also telling the public, you're not going to get any juicy insider info out of this, and here's why. Interesting take on it, but she thought you finessed it. :)

I'm going to late yoga tonight - about 7:30 to 9 but around otherwise. Have a great rest of the day. Love you!

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From: Forgrave, Reid [mailto:rforgrave@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 1:45 PM
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hi beautiful.

a strange combination of being busy and bored here. just got back from a (bad) lunch. bloggy bloggy bloggy. not much happening...and yet we're blogging every 20 minutes! ha. Funny.

looking forward to being back tomorrow night!

call you later....

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The Des Moines Register
P.O. Box 957, Des Moines, IA 50306
515.284.8260
rforgrave@dmreg.com

From: Forgrave, Megan [mforgrave@ia-sb.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 11:55 AM
To: tobinoberry@gmail.com; Forgrave, Reid
Subject: RE: Harper Pics

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From: Reid Forgrave
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Cc: 'Megan Hawkins'
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Sent: Feb 9, 2010 9:28 PM

How about dinner on Monday?

Just let us know what we shall bring, what time, etc., etc.

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From: Walsh, Sharon <swalsh@desmoine.gannett.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 12:23 PM
To: Blair, Darlene
Subject: RE: ISCAP Minutes and Bills for Publication

Darlene – I can get these in on Tuesday, too.

Thanks!!!

Sharon

Sharon Walsh
Des Moines Register Legals Clerk
515-284-8715
legals@dmreg.com

From: Blair, Darlene [mailto:dblair@ia-sb.org]
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Subject: ISCAP Minutes and Bills for Publication

Des Moines Register

*For Publication: Attached are the minutes and accounts paid from the September 21, 2010 ISCAP Board Meeting.
Thanks.*

Darlene Blair
Executive Assistant
Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312-1417
Phone: 515-247-7042
Fax: 515-247-7041
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How about 5:30 on Monday. No need to bring anything. See you then.

Toby

-----Original Message-----

From: Reid Forgrave
To: Toby O'Berry
Cc: 'Megan Hawkins'
Subject: RE: Harper Pics
Sent: Feb 9, 2010 9:28 PM

How about dinner on Monday?

Just let us know what we shall bring, what time, etc., etc.

Look forward to it!!!

Reid

—

Reid Forgrave
The Des Moines Register
P.O. Box 957, Des Moines, IA 50306
515.284.8260
rforgrave@dmreg.com

From: Toby O'Berry [tobinoberry@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 11:46 AM
To: Forgrave, Reid
Cc: 'Megan Hawkins'
Subject: Harper Pics

Hey man, It was good to hear from you. We have been in hibernation mode as well. We did escape in Dec to Mexico and for Kelly's spring break, my parents are watching Harper and we are going to Antigua for a week of sun! congrats on covering the Becker trial...it's a big one. Are you guys around next week on Monday or Wednesday...you could come for dinner at our pad.

Later,

Toby

Toby O'Berry
tobinoberry@gmail.com
515-321-5476

Toby O'Berry
515-321-5476
tobinoberry@gmail.com

Search

From: Forgrave, Megan
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 9:16 AM
To: 'Forgrave, Reid'
Subject: RE: East Village community garden

Sweet! And I totally agree with you about this weekend. Let's make it a random, fun one! Maybe Saturday the chocolate thing can kick off a great random day... Let's brainstorm tonight. Love you bunches and sorry if I've been a nasty influence. Maybe I'll paint myself a couple of canvases or little signs while you're gone next week as reminders. Might sound dumb, but that little inspirational stuff makes a difference for me sometimes. Xo!

-----Original Message-----

From: Forgrave, Reid [mailto:rforgrave@desmoine.gannett.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 8:48 AM
To: Forgrave, Megan
Subject: FW: East Village community garden

yay

-----Original Message-----

From: mlsdsm@earthlink.net [mailto:mlsdsm@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 8:24 PM
To: Forgrave, Reid
Cc: Abra Pulley
Subject: Re: East Village community garden

Reid,
Of course I remember you...and you're in luck! Abra Pulley is the vice president of the HEV Board and a grower at the Community Garden. She'll get you info about becoming involved - they have a lot of fun as well as growing good stuff...

Abra's in grad school at the moment, among many other things, but she'll be in touch with you soon.

'Hope your world is going well!!!
Take care,
Marsha

-----Original Message-----

>From: "Forgrave, Reid" <rforgrave@desmoine.gannett.com>
>Sent: Feb 3, 2010 7:29 PM
>To: "mlsdsm@earthlink.net" <mlsdsm@earthlink.net>
>Subject: East Village community garden

>
>Hi Marsha,

>
>Reid Forgrave here. Not sure if you remember me -- I wrote a story about Found Things many moons ago.

>
>I was wondering if you know who is in charge of the East Village Community garden. My wife and I get not-so-great northern light at our downtown apartment, and we're hoping to grow tomatoes and more this summer. Wondering if there's any space available in the East Village, even if it's a little.

>
>Thanks, Hope all is well.
>
>Reid
>
>—
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>Reid Forgrave
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